



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School
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WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

November 6th, 2020

Attention Ashby families:

Quarter one finished today as students enjoyed a mixture of in-person learning and distance learning. Looking back at my last message, we were discussing protocols for snow days due to an untimely October snowstorm and today we are looking at temperatures in the 70's. I guess even mother nature figured we needed a little bit of a break.

Before we head off into the weekend and move into quarter 2, there are a couple of items we would like to address:

1. School conferences will be next Thursday, November 12th. Families in the secondary school should have received a message with a link to register for virtual conferences through Seesaw. If you have not received that link, you can find it on our school webpage and social media sites.
2. Preschool and elementary families attending conferences in-person are required to wear a mask. Should this be problematic for you for various reasons, please contact your child's teacher to set up a virtual or phone conference.
3. Each week, Ashby School's Incident Command Team meets to discuss Covid numbers in our school district as well as all of Grant, Douglas, and Otter Tail counties. Our team, which consists of board members, school administration, and teaching staff, along with a representative from public health, determine what learning model makes sense for our district based on the cases in and around our school district.

The group's goal is to analyze positive case numbers in staff, students, and within the community. Based on these results, we determine what the best course of action will be for our district.

At this time, the Incident Command Team feels that due to the low number of active cases in students and relatively low cases in staff, we can safely remain in our current learning models as we continue to see that the transmission of the virus continues to occur outside of the school within social gatherings and family get-togethers rather than within school organized activities and programs.

We ask that families be aware of guidelines set by the CDC and MDH as evidence is showing that the mitigation strategies are working when done properly. Over the next week, our goal is to create a chart that indicates our present learning model, current case count numbers in our area as well as indications of where the present cases could be found in our school.

4. There were rumors throughout social media and some social circles that the governor was going to meet with administration from around the state to potentially mandate the shift of all schools into distance learning through the holiday break. Administrators throughout the state did meet with Governor Walz and Commissioner Jan Malcolm today along with other members of the governor's cabinet to discuss updates to the current education order but did not indicate that he was going to mandate a transition to distance learning at this time. Health officials in the call did warn us of the increase of cases in outstate Minnesota and the lack of available critical care units throughout the state due to the drastic increase in cases throughout the state. Health officials urged us to take the virus seriously as they continue to see severe cases in staff and students throughout the state.
5. Our goal as an Incident Command Team is to continue to keep our students in our buildings as long as we can. We ask that you continue to do your part in notifying the school of potential close contacts and of covid symptoms in anyone living in your home and to take all necessary safety precautions when in public settings.

Know the school continues to be a place to support our students, families, and community as a whole. We will do our best to push our students with the understanding of the stress of various learning models and covid-19 cases responses put on all of you. Together we will work through this school year and be better teachers, students, and community members because of it.

Until next time, be happy and be healthy.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School