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October 21, 2020

Dear Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation Parents:

As you are likely aware, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has placed Dearborn County in the Red category for “High Community Spread.” I have been working closely with the Dearborn County Health Department, Dearborn County Health Officer Dr. Eliason, and the other Dearborn County Superintendents.

After considerable discussion this week, we have determined we can continue to maintain healthy and safe schools while Dearborn County is designated in the Red category, and the data supports this.

Therefore, at this time, we will continue with traditional school for grades K-12.

So far this school year, we have had fourteen (14) students test positive for COVID-19. Of the fourteen, four (4) were positive right before school started or were symptomatic and did not attend school while contagious. With the other ten (10) students, we conducted contact tracing as required by the ISDH and excluded students for fourteen (14) calendars days. Although several students were identified as close contacts (within six (6) feet for fifteen (15) minutes or longer), **NO** close contacts have become COVID-19 positive. Our mitigation strategies are working. While there is high community spread, and students are becoming COVID-19 positive, it is not being spread at school.

Please take a moment to read through some important updates below on how we will operate while in the Red category.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Due to the data supporting COVID-19 spread is being mitigated in our schools, we will continue with extra-curricular activities. However, attendance at these activities will be limited. Attendance at extra-curricular activities will be limited according to the ISDH designation:

Red - Two (2) tickets per participant (student, athlete, band member, manager, etc.)

Orange - Three (3) tickets per participant (student, athlete, band member, manager, etc.)

Yellow - Four (4) tickets per participant (student, athlete, band member, manager, etc.) Student section will be permitted

More information regarding tickets for events will be coming from your student’s coach, sponsor, or teachers.

Extended Closure

As stated in our re-entry plan, one of our guiding principles states we will be flexible and agile. Since the plan was developed and approved in July, we have received additional guidance from ISDH and can be found on our COVI-19 webpage, which is linked below. The current re-entry plan is to move to e-learning for grades K-12 three (3) days per week during an extended closure. I met with my principals this week, and they are meeting with their building leadership teams to discuss other ways to conduct school **IF** we are required to close for an extended period of time. We know e-learning is difficult for parents, and particularly for working parents of young students.

I will recommend some changes to our re-entry plan at the November 12th board meeting, based on the input I receive this week, and based on parent survey results from the summer. Please be watching your email for updates on our plan for an extended closure.

ISDH COVID-19 Dashboard

For more information about county color designations, COVID-19 data including school data, please go to the ISDH COVID-19 Dashboard at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/>.

Communication

As I have stated before, communication is critical as we navigate through this school year. As a reminder, here are some of our communication channels at Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools.

Super Chat - Monthly podcast with several topics of information, typically posted around the beginning of each month.

<http://static.theflypod.com/episodes/sunman-dearborn-schools/>

Facebook - Sunman-Dearborn has an official Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Sunman-Dearborn-Community-Schools-110371490687998/>

Twitter - #WatchSunmanDearborn

@S_DCSC - https://twitter.com/S_DCSC - Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

@SDCS_SUPER - https://twitter.com/SDCS_SUPER - Andrew Jackson

COVID-19 Webpage - Including this parent letter and all archived parent letters.

<https://www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us/information/covid-19>

Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,



Andrew Jackson
Superintendent