



**December 30, 2020**

**Hello Norse Nation!**

**I hope this letter finds you and your family coming off a wonderful holiday weekend filled with fun memories and preparing for another wonderful weekend!**

**Our data has continued to trend in a positive direction. Recently, the Governor shared news that the state's positivity and COVID-19 related hospitalization rates are trending down. Muskegon County's seven-day positivity rates have continued to drop. This is all great news and we are hopeful it continues.**

**At this time, based on this news and guidance from Public Health-Muskegon County, we plan to return to the same Learning Model used to start our school year. This will begin on Monday, January 4th. Virtual students will continue with their classes. Hybrid students will return to their original schedules. Blue Cohort will attend in person on Monday and Tuesday with Gold Cohort attending in person on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will look very similar as our current Friday schedule. We continue to be hopeful this is a start toward moving us toward more normalcy in our school schedule.**

**When we return to school, we will follow the safety protocols we adopted at the beginning of the school year. Students and staff will wear masks, stay six feet apart when possible, and wash/sanitize their hands often. Please keep your child or young adult home if they are in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19, are awaiting test results, are exposed to someone who tests positive, or have symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms to watch for include a fever of 100.4 or higher, uncontrolled coughing, severe headache, new or unusual sore throat, belly pain, diarrhea, vomiting, or loss of smell or taste. Please report these symptoms to the school office so we can make informed decisions about in-person learning.**

**Public Health officials continue to tell us our return to in-person learning will depend on how well our greater community follows the CDC recommendations to limit social interactions, wear masks, stay at least 6 feet from others, and clean and sanitize hands often. Thank you for doing your part!**

**As we look to our future, before break we sent surveys to gather information from our families for the 2nd Semester. This survey was sent under the assumption**

that the majority of families support our goal of moving toward as much face-to-face learning as possible as soon as possible. So, this survey asked for their choice other than that option. The following bullet points address the information we gained:

- About 950 responses (90.4% responded)
- Approximately 90% of students district-wide chose the Hybrid Model
- 28 elementary students chose all-virtual (7.2%) - these were mainly the same students as prior
- 72 MS/HS students chose all-virtual (12.6%) - this depicts about 20 of these students flipping from their current choice

Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility during this unusual time. Our staff is committed to keeping our students safe and providing the high-quality learning we are so proud of as Norsemen! I am confident all that we are learning through this process will make us better in the long term!

Take care,

Dr. Babcock  
Superintendent