

OAK GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT #68

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December 17, 2020

Dear Oak Grove Families,

First off, the Board of Education, Mrs. Almasi, and myself would like to wish everyone in our school community a Happy Holiday season. This time is also a time of reflection on the year 2020 and we are most thankful to see this year come to a close. Not only have we had major disruptions to our school year, but many families within the community are struggling. Our collective thoughts are with our families past and present in the hopes that the new year will bring stability and prosperity.

As you know, the administration made the difficult decision to enact remote learning for the week of December 15th. At last night's Board of Education meeting, there was great discussion on the amount of time needed after break to ensure that we have a strong start to the third quarter. **The administration and Board of Education concluded that we will extend remote learning for two additional weeks after the winter break. This means that all students will remotely connect to their classes from January 4th through January 15th and 3rd quarter in-person students will return to in-person learning on January 19th.** The administration believes that this will provide a strong start to the 3rd quarter and with parents help, we can continue to provide in-person learning in 2021. We do understand that this may place a hardship on some families to provide childcare, so we want to provide this information well in advance. The administration is available for questions via email if you are concerned about your student's attendance at Oak Grove School in the 3rd quarter. Please contact me at lbaele@og68.org or Mrs. Almasi at nalmasi@og68.org, for any questions you may have regarding the situation.

The administration needs your support in this time over winter break. If your family does plan to travel or go to a location that may be a hotspot or area of greater risk, we ask that you use the remote time to self-quarantine at home. As we have seen from experience, rapid spread can take place when procedures and protocols are not followed. It is in everyone's best interest to continue to mask, social distance, wash hands & sanitize, and to monitor symptoms often. Communication with the Oak Grove School office is essential in assisting us in containing positives within our environment. If you are uncomfortable sending your student to school based on this new information for the 3rd quarter, please let Mrs. Almasi know at the email above and we will facilitate the switch to remote learning until such time that you are once again comfortable with sending your student on an in-person basis. Through proper procedures and protocols, we believe that we can continue to offer you and your student(s) a safe learning environment in the midst of this global pandemic. Again, please let us know if you should have any questions.

We will get through this together,

Dr. Loren Baele