

Please enter your comment

My family was disappointed to hear elementary Spanish was cancelled for this year (or part of it). While we certainly understand the staffing issues surrounding this, my family's expectation is that the program be fully reinstated in the fall of 2021 at the latest. As a family we know that studying a foreign language raises standardized test scores and will facilitate getting a job in the future. Spanish is not just one of life's superfluities, it's critical. It is also part of our family heritage and we love that our community is more accepting of diversity through studying Spanish. We are hopeful for our children to someday earn the Seal of Biliteracy in high school. We understand the success of the Spanish program is dependent upon beginning the language at a young age. We chose this district for the unique Foreign Language opportunities and friends & neighbors have always spoken very highly of the value of the ACP program, which will be in jeopardy if elementary Spanish is ended. Please ensure the elementary Spanish program is restored next fall. Thank you for all your hard work this fall for the children.

At last week's board meeting, Dr. Rubenstein explained the Covid Metrics. At that time, the public was told that their would be a Covid Dashboard going live on Friday. There is still no information regarding getting this up and running. In addition, Dr. Rubenstein explained that one of the criteria looked at for schools to return to full remote instruction was the number of cases per 100,000. As of today, according to Northwestern University's Dashboard that provides statistics by zip code, shows Elmhurst's cases per 100,000 is currently at 207. This is double what we were told the metric would need to be to return to remote instruction. In addition, the rolling average for the positivity rate is just over 8%. How are our schools still open? It doesn't matter what the county metrics are at this point.

Elmhurst's numbers are out of control. There are many students and staff currently quarantined. The buildings are not adequately staffed. At one of our middle schools tomorrow, there is a sub combining two classes at once due to overlap and no subs. These are not acceptable conditions for our children or the district staff. At what point is the district administration and the board of education going to realize that we are not ready to return to in person learning. The largest group yet, our 8th graders and 11th and 12th graders have not even returned. Will the board and administration consider a return to remote learning platform only when a student or staff member gets seriously ill from Covid-19, or even worse, dies from complications? This is absolutely ridiculous!