



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes required for success in a rapidly changing world.



December 16, 2020

Dear Suffield Families and Staff:

The purpose of this notification is to provide an important update regarding our district's operational status during tomorrow's snowstorm, as well as, provide formal notice that the Suffield Public Schools will be shifting to full-remote learning until January 11, 2021.

Due to the snowstorm that is being forecast for tomorrow, the Suffield Public Schools will be fully closed on Thursday, December, 17th. While we recognize that several districts intend to provide remote learning in place of snow cancellations, the Suffield Public Schools will continue to follow our traditional snow closing procedures. Our decision to remain consistent with past practice was discussed at length during the November 2nd Board of Education meeting. Although we are uncertain what the end of our school year will bring, we are very hopeful that our decision to forego remote-learning during snow closures will enable us to provide in-person learning opportunities to our students at the conclusion of the school year. It is important to note that the Board of Education may revisit this topic at a future meeting; however, we will continue with our current practice until further notice.

In terms of district operations, beginning with Friday, December 18, 2020, the Suffield Public Schools will be shifting from our Hybrid model to Full-Remote status until January 11, 2021. We have made significant efforts to provide in-person learning opportunities to our students for as long as possible; however, the increasing volume of positive cases and exposures within the school district have become an insurmountable personnel challenge for us in our current Hybrid model.

In addition, the Board of Education recommended at this evening's meeting to close schools on Monday, December 21, 2020 and Tuesday, December 22, 2020. These two days will be added to the end of the school year in hopes of increasing our chances for in-person learning. Therefore, the Suffield Public Schools will be closed from Monday, December 21, 2020 to Friday, January 1, 2021.

On behalf of the Suffield Public Schools, I would like to wish everyone a healthy, restful, and enjoyable holiday vacation. May the new year bring us peace, happiness, and a return to our normal way of life.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Van Tassel
Superintendent of Schools