

# ***Sandhill E-News***

## Winter Break Edition

### **Message from Mr. Johnson:**

Hello Everyone!

I hope all is well with you and your family. At Sandhill we had a great week full of fun outfits, lots of playing in the snow, and great student learning!

We have started planning for the return of 3rd-5th grade students to in-person learning. Please keep scrolling for more updates. If you have concerns, please reach out as I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

We are well into the 2020 holiday season. Regardless of which holidays that you and your loved ones celebrate, we wish you the warmest seasons greetings. Have a safe and restful Winter Break.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you have. However, it may take me a little longer to respond as I will be taking a Winter Break as well. :)

Take good care and we'll see you when classes resume on January 4th, 2021.

Bob (Mr. Johnson)





## DISTRICT WILL PRESENT REOPENING PLANS for GRADES 3-12 THIS MONDAY

On Monday, December 21, we will be presenting our reopening plans for grades 3-12 to the Board of Education. This meeting will be a presentation of how we will reopen, not a discussion about when we will reopen. The Board will not take a vote on Monday, December 21. Please feel free to join us at 6 p.m. virtually. Expect more information about our reopening plans on Tuesday, December 22.



## Save the Date: Upcoming Selection Form K-12

Given that each day we move closer to more students coming back to school, we will be asking our families to decide how their child will attend school. We will send a Selection Form the first week in January asking families to indicate their students' placement starting January 25 through the end of the school year. All families with children in grades 3-12 are required to indicate their decision. We ask that families with **children in grades K-2 only fill out the form if they are making changes in their child's placement.**



To help inform your upcoming decision, we will be sending more information about the reopening plan on Tuesday, December 22 after the Board meeting and again in the first week of January.

## This Week Public Health Released New Guidance for Schools

On Monday, December 14, Public Health Madison & Dane County



required to follow the School Requirements (masks, 6-feet distancing, etc.) and provided additional recommendations for schools when reopening. They are no longer recommending or not recommending that schools reopen. They have removed their recommendation that “grades 3-12 have virtual instruction only.” Instead, PHMDC is allowing individual school districts to decide start dates for reopening.

At SASD, we continue to seek Board of Education approval before additional grade levels attend school in person. Read more about Emergency Order #11 [here](#) and Public Health's requirements and recommendations for schools [here](#).

## Message About Report Cards

We are eager to share with you our report cards for the first trimester of our school year. Our students and teachers have worked so hard over the past months to continue to learn and grow together amidst the many challenges which have arisen during the pandemic. Our thanks to our whole SASD community for finding ways to thrive and be in this, together! Please see some key points below:



### Report Card Comments:

To fill out report cards for all K-5 students, homeroom teachers will work together with other grade level teachers and staff who have been in the Zoom meetings during this time and have shared responsibility for teaching different areas. Paper copies of report cards will be sent home in backpacks (K-2 in-person students) or mailed home (virtual K-2 students and all students in grades 3-5) the week of December 14.

**Grades 3-5:** For students in grades 3-5, grades will be filled out to reflect the full first trimester (September 1 - November 30).

**Grades K-2:** Since there have been many changes for students in both virtual and in-person classrooms, our report cards for K-2 will reflect the period of September 1-November 11 and will be filled out by the teacher who was your child's homeroom teacher during that time. If you have questions about your child's report card, please contact your child's homeroom teacher for the period of September 1-November 11. If you have questions about your child's performance now, please contact your child's current homeroom teacher.

As always, our report cards show just a snapshot of your child as a learner in the highest priority areas. Yet, as you know, we find ourselves in a very unique teaching and learning environment this year, and some areas are more difficult to accurately communicate meaningful assessments of your child's progress and performance. Therefore, some additional areas will be marked with a “X”, which means that the knowledge or skill is not being evaluated at this time. While report cards often have areas marked “X”, we want to be particularly sure we only assess areas we feel confident we can accurately measure and assess at this time, with particular attention to our unique remote context.

### Additional Information about Graded Areas:

**Math:** Students will be assessed on work turned in, including assessments & class work.



**English Language Arts:** This is the area with the biggest changes. Since we have a new curriculum and a virtual environment, we felt we could best share student performance and progress using the comments on the report card. Comments will address:

**Foundational Reading:** The SASD's K-5 Foundational Reading skills curriculum, *Sonday Essentials*, is based on the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching foundational reading skills and spelling. It provides explicit instruction for teaching the structure and system of the English language. To assess student mastery and growth, a Mastery Check is given after every (fifth lesson - grades 1-4 and every tenth lesson - grade 5). These frequent checks allow teachers to determine which sounds or concepts are solid and which need further reinforcement. **Your child's report card will indicate whether your child is meeting or is working towards meeting grade level expectations.**

**Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, Vocabulary, and Language Skills (Wit & Wisdom):** The SASD's K-5 English Language Arts curriculum, *Wit and Wisdom*, uses an integrated approach. Instead of addressing and assessing standards one by one, in isolation, students learn all skills in the context of the module content. Each module is a unit of study with a focus on texts tied to rich content in literature, history/social studies, science, and the arts. Students complete an End-of-Module Task in which they demonstrate both their understanding of the module's content and their ability to use the craft skills taught in the module. The teacher's comments will describe highlights of how they performed on the end of module task, as it is a thorough summary of the most important areas of focus in the first trimester.

**Music, Art & Physical Education:** While our educators have provided exceptional learning experiences in these areas, and our students have responded with enthusiasm and commitment, we do not feel we have enough information to accurately assess students' progress and performance and so you will see an "X" for these indicators.

**Science & Social Studies:** Teachers will grade according to student work we have seen and evaluated.

**Lifelong Learning:** Lifelong learning includes such indicators as "Uses time productively" and "Shows respect for self and others". While our conditions are certainly different this year, each teacher will provide their best gauge of how your child is performing in these areas.

Finally, please feel very free to reach out to your child's teacher if you have specific questions about progress or performance, and/or to your child's principal, or Kate Ahlgren, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, if you have questions about our report card process.

We are amazed at how well we have come to know our students and look forward to sharing this information, which we feel helps us to work as a team on behalf of your child.

Sincerely,

Krista Huntley Rogers, Fox Prairie Principal

Bob Johnson, Sandhill Principal

Erin Conrad, Kegonsa Principal

Kate Ahlgren, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

## **NEW: The Antiracism Project**

The purpose of this districtwide project is to advance our district's Educating for Equity efforts by providing resources, information, and/or opportunities to support recognized national or local events

and classroom curriculum. Our LMS team is researching special events for each month of the school year and helping educators find connections for use inside the classroom and within the community.



In December, our team chose two dates to recognize: Human Rights Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The LMS team will have compiled the following resources for your review with your children during the month of December:

- [Katie's Disability Awareness Video](#)
- [List of K-5 Books About Children with Disabilities](#)
- [Children's Books:](#)
- [Book lists for 12 different Disabilities](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Children's Edition](#)

## From the virtual desk of NHA:

[BE OUR GUEST](#) at one of our January Workshops to learn more about the in's and out's of The Nurtured Heart Approach.



To Your (and your child's) GREATNESS, SIGNIFICANCE & HUMANITY...  
Amy, Sara Jane, Maggie, and Karla

## Celebrating the Holidays Safely This Year: An Ask from SASD

This holiday season the safest thing you can do is spend the holidays only with people you live with.



Holiday celebrations must look different this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Health Madison & Dane County and SASD strongly urge everyone to stay home and to celebrate the holidays only with people you live with. As cases and hospitalizations have been dramatically rising both locally and nationally over October and November, gathering for the holidays, even if the gathering is small, puts our county and state at risk of overwhelming our health care system.

Here are some ideas of safe things you could do this holiday season:

- Host a virtual dinner or celebration
- Watch parades and sports events from home
- Shop for gifts online and mail them to people
- Play a virtual board game
- Share recipes with friends/family and cook the same meal in different homes
- Order takeout or delivery from local businesses offering holiday meals

# SELF-SCREEN QUICK SHEET



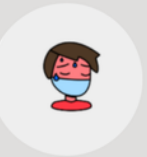
## Before sending your student to school, you must screen them.

Answer the question: **Does my student meet one or more of the self-screen criteria listed?** If NO, you may send your student to school. If YES, follow the **Next Steps**.

### SELF-SCREEN CRITERIA



Student has tested positive for COVID-19



Student is experiencing symptoms\* of COVID-19



Student has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

### NEXT STEPS

1. Call your school's attendance line to report your student's absence.
2. Fill out the [Student COVID-19 Form](https://stoughton.k12.wi.us) at [stoughton.k12.wi.us](https://stoughton.k12.wi.us) under the "COVID-19" tab.
3. Contact your health care provider for next steps.



### \*Symptoms of COVID-19



- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever equal to or greater than 100.4°F
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

## Contactless Library Book Check Out

We are continuing to offer curbside pickup for library books. Students can still put books on hold through Destiny Discover on our E-Library website. When the books are ready, Mrs. Fingerson will reach out to students and families.

[Click here to request district technology support](#)



[Click here to request school lunches or meal delivery](#)

[2020-2021 SASD Calendar](#)

### Past Newsletters:

[Week of 8/17/2020](#) [Week of 8/24/2020](#)

[Week of 8/31/2020](#) [Week of 9/7/2020](#)

[Week of 9/14/2020](#) [Week of 9/21/2020](#)

[Week of 9/28/2020](#) [Week of 10/5/2020](#)

[Week of 10/12/2020](#) [Week of 10/19/2020](#)

[Week of 10/26/2020](#) [Week of 11/2/2020](#)

[Week of 11/9/2020](#) [Week of 11/16/2020](#)

[Week of 11/23/2020](#) [Week of 11/30/2020](#)

[Week of 12/7/2020](#) [Week of 12/14/2020](#)



# Robert Johnson

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## Contact Information



Facebook



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Ms. Halverson - Dean of Students - 877-5422

Ms. Plank - Administrative Assistant - 877-5402

Mrs. Holverson - Health Assistant - 877-5404

Mrs. Dybevik - School Psychologist - 877-5410

Mr. Anderson - School Counselor - 877-5406

Ms. McDermot - School Social Worker - 877-5423



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stoughton.k12.wi.us/sandhill-el...

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**EVERY DAY  
COUNTS START  
TO FINISH**

