



Dear Palos 118 Families,

It was almost a year ago today that Governor Pritzker mandated all schools in Illinois close due to the coronavirus. Most of the news reports last night devoted significant time to looking back over the past year and highlighting the many hardships our nation has faced and continues to face as we race toward ending this pandemic. I'm sure many of my colleagues will devote their weekly messages to their school communities doing the same by looking back. Still, as I sit in my office this morning and watch the sun rise over the forest preserve, I'm moved to not look back to March 2020 but to look forward to March 2022.

I'm confident in March 2022 I'll be preparing for a weeklong vacation somewhere sunny and warm without fear of flying. In March 2022, I'll see my parents again in-person without the aid of Zoom. I'll open my house up again for gatherings with friends and neighbors without concern for how many show up and how close they stand to one another. St. Patrick Day festivities, concerts, and baseball games are all in the works for next March. Yes, it is March 2022 I'm thinking about this morning and all the hope and promise it brings not only to me but to all of you.

We have one more week before we begin Spring Break and our brief adaptive pause. Let's finish strong by continuing to follow our safety procedures.

Adaptive Pause

Please don't forget to mark on your calendars our adaptive pause immediately following spring break. As a reminder, all students will engage in remote learning on March 29, 30, 31, and April 1. In-person instruction will resume on April 6. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our students and staff safe.

This week's metrics:

- **A return to Phase 3 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan**
Suburban Cook County remains in Phase 4, which allows schools to conduct in-person instruction. Source: Governor's Office

- **Outbreaks of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools**
We are unaware of any reported outbreaks in area schools. Source: ISC-4 and media reports.
- **Confirmed Community Spread**
Test Positivity is "minimal." New Cases per 100,000 is "moderate." New Cases are "minimal." Youth Case Increase is "minimal." The 7-day rolling positivity rate is $\leq 8\%$. The 14-day rolling positivity rate is $\leq 8\%$. Source: IDPH and Northwestern University
- **Directive from IDPH, CCDPH, ISBE, or the Governor's Office**
IDPH and ISBE released updated guidance for in-person learning. The school district is reviewing this updated guidance now.
- **District 118 Staffing**
If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, visit the [employment page](#) of our website to see if you qualify and to fill out an online application.
- **COVID Dashboard Statistics**
You can view our updated COVID Dashboard by visiting www.palos118.org.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools