

From: Alan Addley <dps@darienps.org>
Subject: Superintendent Communication 1205

December 5, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

Good morning on this rainy Saturday. I trust this finds your family in good health. I also hope you were able to enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday even though your celebration may have looked different than years past. The Thanksgiving Holiday is the perfect time to pause, ponder and give thanks to those we are most thankful for. I continue to be thankful for the amazing work of our school community. Navigating the pandemic continues to be a collaborative effort between students, staff and parents.

Many of our elementary parents had the opportunity this week to connect with teachers through our first round of virtual conferences. Hopefully that time was productive as we continue to explore ways to remain close while keeping a safe distance. For the most part, virtual conferences happened seamlessly with the thoughtful preparation of teachers and the supportive participation of parents.

During the week the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a new set of guidelines entitled: [Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing](#). The District has discussed this new information with both David Knauf, the Director of the Darien Department of Health, and Dr. Timothy Kenefick, the District Medical Advisor. We are waiting for the Department of Public Health to make recommendations regarding the new quarantine options and expect to have an update next week. Until that guidance is received and reviewed by our medical advisory team, the District will continue to adhere to the established 14-day quarantine period for all close contacts, regardless of a negative test result.

In the schools, the week after the holiday saw fewer COVID and quarantine cases than perhaps anticipated; however, as cases continue to rise in town it is critical that we do not become complacent and remain vigilant practicing good health and safety practices. Hand washing, social distancing, and wearing masks continue to be the most effective mitigation strategies of virus spread. With that in mind, please be sure to follow mask protocols and distancing guidelines when on school grounds and when using athletic fields. Please adhere to posted notices. Following these important mitigation strategies are critical to keep everyone safe and keeping our schools open.

A big thank you to our Holmes staff and parents for quickly accommodating and transitioning to a remote learning day yesterday due to a broken water pipe. Water has since been restored to the building.

As always, thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate these uncharted waters together. We will keep you updated as information becomes available. In the meantime, please enjoy a safe and restful weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Addley".

Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools