

December 14, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

Good Monday morning everyone. I trust this finds your family in good health as the winter break and holidays are upon us. Thank you to the Royle staff and parents for the quick transition to a remote learning day due to staffing and class coverage issues this past Friday. Indeed, we extend our appreciation to the entire school community for accommodating a number of unanticipated disruptions and changes to school schedules as the District responds to the increased number of COVID and quarantine cases in the schools and town.

I wish to inform you of the decision to transition the entire District to a remote learning model for the time period: Friday, December 18 through Wednesday, December, 23. The last day this calendar year of in person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students will be Thursday, December 17. We fully anticipate and are planning to resume school in our current learning models (in person for elementary & hybrid for secondary) on Monday, January 4, 2021. The decision to change learning models for this short time period was made in the collective best interest of our students, families and staff.

This has been an extremely challenging year for students, families and staff. Proudly, the District has been able to keep our children in school throughout the pandemic in spite of the significant challenges presented by rising COVID cases and the increasing number of staff and students required to quarantine. We have done this through the amazing efforts of our staff and the support of our parents.

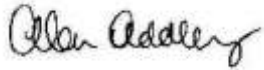
Fundamentally, the decision to make the change was made to reduce the likelihood that students, families and staff will need to quarantine over the winter break/holiday. Now, it is reasonable to take a temporary and collective pause in order to provide our students, families and staff with the opportunity to enjoy the winter break/holiday and to safely reconnect with family members. The decision was reviewed and supported by the District's Medical Advisor, the town's Director of Health, the COVID Compliance Liaison, and the District COVID Response Team. Other benefits from this decision include:

- Allowing the staff to focus on one learning model as the number of remote learners increases leading up to the winter break;
- Anticipating further school disruptions due to quarantining and the inability to acquire substitute teacher coverage;
- Providing a dependable schedule for parents during the last four days of school;
- Reducing the amount of contact tracing time to be conducted over the winter break/holiday by our nursing staff; and,
- Recognizing the extraordinary efforts of the staff thus far in providing in person learning.

Information about remote schedules may be accessed on page 92 of the [District's Reopening Plan](#) located on the main page of the District website. At approximately 3:00 pm today, school principals will send remote schedules and additional information to parents.

I encourage our students, families and staff to be particularly vigilant this week in exercising health and safety mitigation strategies so the District may continue in person learning and with the hope that everyone experiences a safe winter/holiday break with their family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Addley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools