



EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 25, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members-at-Large,

It has been a while since I provided you an update on our COVID-19 status. If you are of the mind that: “no news is good news”, you are correct. We have been fortunate here the last few weeks. Our case numbers dropped considerably and the number of learners currently under quarantine are also going down. At the writing of this letter, we have only one case at the Secondary from prior to the February 18-21 “reset”. Since the reset, we have not picked up any new cases. We will continue to bring you updates related to COVID-19 as they are necessary.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a small piece of good news. Our mid-year internal achievement measures assessed by “Fastbridge” grades 1-8 are running close to last year’s performance. There is a slight reduction in overall reading performance, however, math performance is almost on par with last year prior to the COVID-19 closure in March. While this is only a single academic snapshot comparing pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 learning windows, it is worth celebrating. Translation: There has not been a “free fall” of achievement that many expected. I wish to acknowledge all those who have made this possible, including our support staff members, faculty, administrators, School Board, and our parents, grandparents, older siblings (who have picked up teaching responsibilities at home) and most importantly our learners who have been undaunted in their efforts to adjust and continue applying themselves. Having stated that, we District officials are keenly aware that there is much that our learners are missing out on, both academically and socially because of the pandemic. We will continue to do everything that we can to return to normal as soon as we are permitted and can safely do so.

NOTE: Just a reminder: If there is a need to close schools for weather-related emergencies, we will be using a virtual option as we did on Friday, February 19th from now until the end of the school year. The last day of 2020-2021 school year is Friday, June 4, 2021.

Most Sincerely,

Robert M. Hollister, Ed.D.
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