

September 24, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an update to our COVID-19 mitigation strategies. We continue to evaluate our practices with a focus on how we can keep students in school.

Since the start of the school year, we've experienced 7 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 present in our schools during the contagious period. While 7 is a small number of cases, we have had to quarantine those students who have been identified as close contacts. The necessity to quarantine is primarily due to the proximity of students to one another in the cafeteria. The plexiglass barriers have not enabled us to reduce or eliminate the need to quarantine.

The most important mitigation factor for students who are not vaccinated and are not masked is distancing. During lunch, distancing is the only strategy that allows those unvaccinated to not be identified as a close contact.

#### **Update - Plexiglass and Spacing**

Until our students aged 5 to 11 have the vaccine available and accessible to them we will prioritize distancing during lunchtimes. The strategy to distance will be specific to each building as square footage and availability of space differ in each school. The transition time will also differ in each school. We will continue to maintain a safe and respectful environment for all students and staff.

The district will start to remove the plexiglass barriers in the cafeteria in grades where the vaccine is available to students. For students in grades K through six, the district will be increasing distancing during lunch and as this occurs, plexiglass will be removed from those spaces.

#### **Staffing Needs**

We have a critical need for staffing: custodial staff, food services, and lunch monitors. This change will add to the need for employees in those departments. And, we continue to need bus drivers and substitutes. If you want to make a difference in the lives of young children every time you head to work, please apply on our [website](#).

Please know that the health and safety of everyone in our school buildings is our top priority. As such, we are closely following the recommendations of our state and local health officials. As these recommendations change, we will adjust our health and safety protocols accordingly.

We want to thank our students, staff, and families for following our mitigation measures over the past year and a half. We know it has not been easy. Thanks to your efforts, we have been able to keep one another safe and continue with in-person learning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your building principal.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Reusche Ed.D.  
Superintendent