



PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear Preston Learning Community,

THANK YOU for all of your support. Parents, school staff, and students working together for the benefit of the children will help them be more successful and learn in a positive way.

UPDATE: Over the last week and a half, the district has experienced a spike in positive COVID-19 cases. As of Wednesday, December 15, 2021, the district has 23 positive cases and the associated contact tracings of over 100 students. Most of the 100 students have opted for Screen and Stay. Screen and Stay has allowed students to stay in school and engage in learning. Remember, if your child is showing any signs or symptoms of infectious diseases, you should contact the school nurse and your health care provider as soon as possible for evaluation and get tested for COVID-19. Please do not send your child to school when waiting for any COVID testing results to be reported. Remember, families must continue to quarantine away from public/team athletic/social activities and follow standard quarantine protocols for other activities beyond school.

OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH and WEATHER: To paraphrase a recent New York Times Editorial - **Even as we remain vigilant against the coronavirus, we do not need to remain in a state of paralyzing hyper-vigilance, which has been so draining to us all.** We need to keep as routine a life as possible while the virus evolves. Our attitudes toward the day, the various surges, and the medical knowledge and interventions we are learning to use will help us adjust and move forward. Staying connected to sound basics of public health, continuing the progress of medical innovation, advocating for safety steps such as vaccinations, and attempting to pull back and lower societal anxiety will help us all, especially children. **Please maintain an awareness that weather and staffing issues could cause the district to close school and, at this time, there is NO remote instruction option per the state legislature.** Based on our recent spike in cases, we have ended afterschool activities until after winter break as an added precaution.

OUR PERPETUAL GOAL: Keeping children safe, releasing some of their anxiety, and staying in school is our daily goal. We are keeping children in school because our trusted staff is at a 98% vaccination rate, and an increasing number of students from 5 and up are vaccinated.

We hope that these next few weeks yield few disruptions and that the holiday break is a peaceful, healthy, and enjoyable reprieve for all.

Be safe. Be well.

Roy Seitsinger