



THOMAS | GREENBRIER | IVY HILL | OLIVE | PATTON
SOUTH | DRYDEN | WESTGATE | WINDSOR

Friday, January 15, 2021

Dear Arlington Heights School District 25 Families:

Over the next several days, you will receive at least three separate emails from District 25. I apologize for the numerous emails, but we want to keep everyone updated on a variety of topics. In addition to this letter, please watch for an individual Selection Confirmation email for each of your children's choices for Step 3 and Step 4 of our Transitional Model of Reopening Plan. Also, you will receive a letter from our Assessment Coordinator about the upcoming assessments.

The purpose of this letter is to (1) clarify where we are in our Transitional Model of Reopening, (2) inform you about our intent related to Inauguration Day, and (3) share an update on our work related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Transitional Model of Reopening

- **We will continue in Step 3 on January 19th.** We have not yet met the Board's determined metrics that would transition us to Step 4. To move to Step 4, there must be < 8 % positivity rate in Region 10 OR < 70 new cases per 100,000 population in Arlington Heights (60004 and 60005 combined). You can see the daily update on these metrics by visiting <https://www.sd25.org/TransitionMetrics> and scrolling to the bottom of the page. (A recent article in the Arlington Heights Post newspaper has incorrect information about our Transitional Model of Reopening as the reporter misunderstood the purpose of the last Board of Education meeting. The article has been taken off of their website, , but was already in print.
- Once we see a single day that is < 8% positive, I will announce the transition to Step 4. Step 4 will likely start a few days after that to give our District some time to make any needed operational or instructional adjustments. The < 70 metric is reported for a 7-day period, but the < 8% only needs to be an individual day.
- Once we transition to Step 4, we will not return to a hybrid learning model (2 days in/2 days out). The only transition we would make after moving to Step 4 would be to a full remote learning model, and only if the health department guides us to do so. That transition could occur for an individual classroom, a grade level, a school, or the entire District.
- The Board of Education will consider a motion at their January 21st meeting about removing the metrics that are currently in place to transition us to Step 4 (www.sd25.org/TransitionMetrics) and instead direct me to move the District to Step 4 on a determined date. I do not know if they will take action on this motion or not, but it is something they will discuss.
- The Cook County Department of Public Health has informed us that they will have information next week on how educators will receive the COVID-19 vaccine. They expect to vaccinate school nurses and occupational, physical and speech therapists in the month of January, and all other educators (including bus drivers, recess supervisors, CAP supervisors, school office staff, maintenance staff, district staff) during the month of February. We currently do not have any information about vaccinations for students.



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Inauguration Day 2021

As we have done in the past, teachers and staff have been asked to refrain from showing the live/real-time Inauguration Day events to our students. Instead, they may choose to share clips of this important American event after they have had the chance to review the footage for age-appropriate content.

Additionally, I have been in contact with Village officials and our Superintendent group has connected with local FBI officials. There is currently no concern about our safety in District 25 for January 20th.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As we approach Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, it's important for me to update you on our work to eliminate systemic racial injustice from District 25. The Board of Education made a clear statement in July when they adopted a resolution related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Beginning next week, District 25 administrators will participate in professional development through the Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations. District 25 staff members will soon have the opportunity to participate in these same professional development experiences. We will also host equity dialogues for staff and community members. I look forward to sharing the details of these activities with you soon.

Board of Education

- There is a new way to connect with all members of the Board of Education at one time. The community is welcome to email individual members, but you can efficiently reach the entire 7-member Board by filling out the contact form at <https://www.sd25.org/BOE> and clicking on the *Contact Our Board* link. The Board of Education agrees that the Board President serves as the spokesperson for the Board of Education, and will respond at the earliest convenience. During a time of high volume of feedback, please know that all entries are read even if a response is not provided. This is not a link for public comments that are shared at the meetings, but a way to email the entire Board of Education at any time.
- The next Board of Education meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:30 pm. It will be held at the Dunton Administration Center. We will return to in-person meetings with a limited capacity for audience members. We have room for 13 audience members in the Dunton Multipurpose Room. Additionally, we will livestream the meeting into two separate rooms that can each host 14 audience members. Therefore, a total of 41 audience members can be hosted at the Dunton Administration Center. The front doors will open at 7:00 pm, and visitors will be required to wear a mask, have their temperature taken, and be symptom free. The meeting will continue to be livestreamed for those who wish to watch it from home. That link will be shared on our website.

I hope you all have a restful weekend. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Lori D. Bein, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education. - Martin Luther King, Jr.