



Holton Public Schools

“Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence, Ready for the Future”

Elementary Office – (231) 821-1825 • Middle School Office – (231) 821-1775
High School Office – (231) 821-1725 • Athletic Office – (231) 821-1930

January 5, 2021

Dear Holton Families:

Happy New Year! I hope your break was relaxing and filled with happy memories. I am excited to enter a new year with hope that better days are ahead. There are several updates I want to share with you as we approach the return to in person instruction and the second semester.

Return to In Person Instruction:

We will be **returning to in person instruction on January 11, 2021** for all grades PreK-12th. **This is only for those students who were enrolled for in person instruction prior to Thanksgiving.** This is ten days after New Year’s Day allowing for a quarantine period following updated CDC guidelines. As we return to in person instruction, please remember the following so that we can continue to provide in person instruction:

- Continue to screen your child for symptoms everyday before coming to school. If sick, your child needs to stay home.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 or is a close contact, please contact the building offices and follow isolation and quarantine recommendations.
- Safety protocols will continue to be in place. Facial coverings are still required and need to be worn at all times other than eating and drinking.
- We will continue to communicate with families regarding positive cases of COVID-19. We have a new way to identify potential close contacts in partnership with Public Health - Muskegon County that will help us isolate and quarantine individuals and, hopefully, prevent the spread of the virus.

Vaccine:

Vaccines for COVID-19 have begun being distributed to frontline healthcare workers and congregate nursing facilities. The vaccine brings hope that we are at the beginning of the end of this pandemic. Educators are to be the next group to receive the vaccine. We are anticipating this to be available in February. Although the vaccine is being distributed, it will take time for us to see the benefits. The current vaccines require two



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doses and the asymptomatic spread of the virus remains a concern. This means that we will need to continue with our safety protocols well into the spring until public health leaders can determine that the level of viral spread has decreased to a level that we achieve herd immunity. We will continue to communicate changes to our plans as circumstances change. Your patience and flexibility through this experience has been incredible and I continue to ask for this in the coming months.

Second Semester Plan:

Thank you for completing your request for second semester enrollment. There was a increase in the number of students switching to in person instruction but not enough to force us to change our existing plan. We will continue to offer in person instruction five days a week for grades K-5 and continue to follow the hybrid schedule for grades 6-12 (Wednesday will remain virtual). We will also continue to offer for the remainder of the school year full virtual instruction with Edmentum allowing students to come to school for direct support from staff. All safety protocols will remain in place. We updated our [Second Semester Return to Learn Summary](#) to reflect the current changes. As we know, changes will occur and we will always adhere to the current requirements from local public health officials, MDHHS, and MDE to keep our students and staff safe.

I know we are all weary of this pandemic. There are many unknowns as we approach the second half of the school year. For now, we need to remain vigilant in preventing the spread of this virus. We are strong, our kids are resilient, and together we will get through this. As a former history teacher I've spent time reflecting on how the future will view our response to the pandemic. My hope is that future generations note our compassion and willingness to overcome challenges for a greater good.

Keep hope. With hope we can do anything.

Respectfully,

Dr. Adam Bayne
Superintendent