

Superintendent's Update #4

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Update #4
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*We are what
we repeatedly
do. Excellence,
then, is not an
act, but a habit.
Aristotle*

School Union #69 Families,

Hello from the Central Office! As we finish our 5th week of in-person learning, I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all of the families, staff and students who have worked so hard to make sure we are as safe as possible in our schools. As this pandemic continues, well beyond what most of us imagined back in March, we must remain vigilant and keep each other well. As the holiday season approaches and we all rethink our traditions in light of where the state, the nation, and the world are in relation to managing the pandemic, I would remind you all that we are all truly, truly dependent upon each other! So far, the students and staff have done an amazing job at keeping socially distant, wearing masks and adhering to the safety protocols in place. Families have been incredibly open and transparent about their concerns and we greatly appreciate all the thought that has gone into making sure that students who are, (or could be) sick, stay home and get well. And, while it is tiring to keep up this vigilance, we must do it! We must stay alert in order to keep our schools as safe as they have been. Although cases have been popping up occasionally in schools around us, as of today, we have had no positive cases in our schools. This achievement belongs to everyone!



*Many thanks to the Hope
Fire Department and CMP
for their quick work
opening up Highfield Road
when an enormous tree
came down in a windstorm!*

My ask is that you take positive steps, as you can, to take control of the situation in your own lives, in your own households, with your own families.

Dr. Nirav Shah

Out and About

Being very careful to wear my mask, wash my hands and keep at least six feet of distance between me and anyone else, I have managed to visit schools each week and walkthrough with the principals. I have seen first-hand the care everyone takes to adhere to the health and safety precautions. I have also seen the joy in spending time together, the delight of learning something new and the twinkle in the eyes of the students in our care. As I witness the passion with which our teachers, staff and administrators attend to their work, I know that, despite the fact that school is different now, this is important work!



Kale salad being served! The students at LCS grew this kale in their garden!

Dispatches from the Students

We know that not every student has the same experience of school and that our new protocols have disrupted and, in some cases, eliminated some of our favorite parts of the school day (no singing, really??). Just like the adults, our students are experiencing ups and downs when it comes to being back in school. Below are some examples of what the students in one class are saying:

-Going to school is pretty weird because of quarantine. I thought school would be closed because of Covid 19. We all have to wear masks. But after all I still like school.

-It is pretty different, like now I can't hug my friends. Sometimes I get a little frustrated when I'm a little too close to my friends and then a teacher tells us we can't do that. It gets a little annoying, but I'm glad I'm in school.

- School is weird. I don't like wearing a mask. I wish we could be [taught] only outside.
- It is hard, but it is fun seeing my friends instead of ZOOM.
- It feels a little weird.
- School is going great. You really get used to wearing masks. It's not fun not being able to touch other people but it's ok.
- My days of school are kind of hard with the masks. But this will change.
- fun
- nice
- I am not a big fan of school right now because of the masks and the sanitizing. But I like my class.
- School feels like coming home again. You get used to wearing the mask.
- Awesome!
- I think it's kind of hard coming in from recess and at recess, because if we're playing near each other we have to keep our mask on.

Nevertheless, we are managing to find new ways of being together and new ways of communicating. One great example is the 2nd grade class in Appleton, who are learning sign language and greeting each other every day without speaking a word! Their greeting this month is: ***“Good morning, friend!”***



***All hands on deck!
AVS staff out in
force to make sure
dismissal goes
smoothly!***