



January 14, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please see the information below for our weekly update. We know that you are receiving many emails from our schools and district, and we thank you for keeping up to date.

COVID-19 Cases:

The number of positive cases and direct contacts in our district and community is on the rise. To an extent, this was expected because of gatherings that likely took place during the holidays. The district is following Health Department guidelines for cases and direct contacts. We will do our best to keep our schools open and our buses running, but we have had to cancel several bus runs and move some classes to remote instruction due to quarantine/isolation orders. We ask that you continue to be patient and know that our top priority is safety. If we do not have appropriate staff in our schools or for our buses, we must move some classrooms to remote format and cancel some bus runs temporarily.

We remind you that if your child's bus run is cancelled, you may still transport your child to and from school. If you cannot arrange alternate transportation, your child should continue via remote instruction. We are doing our best to staff as many bus runs as possible but note that quarantine and isolation orders are occurring across the district and affecting staffing levels in the short term.

Reminder for Hybrid Students:

If your child has been quarantined or isolated, please provide all isolation, quarantine and release paperwork to the school nurse for review before your child can return to in-person instruction.

Remote Questionnaire:

We thank our remote families for completing our questionnaire. Your responses will help us determine if the district can accommodate requests for student moves from remote to hybrid instruction for the second semester. We sent a reminder email this morning – if you have not yet completed the questionnaire for your child(ren), please do so using the link in the email sent this morning by the end of the day Friday.

Athletics and Extracurricular:

We are pleased to have athletic programs return, following state requirements and restrictions. Currently, Boys Swimming/Diving and Bowling, sports deemed low risk by the state, are running, and open gyms for other sports are occurring as well. Unified Varsity Bowling begins February 1. If you have questions about athletics, please contact the Athletic Office at (607) 739-5601, x4254.

Extracurricular activities continue as far as possible during the pandemic. Our High School Greenroom Players are preparing for their virtual performance of *Clue* in February. We're looking forward to the show. Look for more information on how to view the performance soon.

COVID Data:

We continue weekly to post information on positive cases and direct contacts on our website. We have added new data: a comparison of county positives in our region. Please click here for this information:

[Covid Update](#).

continued

COVID-19 Vaccine:

There has been a great deal of discussion about the COVID vaccine this week. As an employer of people eligible for the vaccine in the 1B phase, the district is doing its diligence to assist our employees who wish to receive the vaccine. If you would like more information on the vaccine, here is the link to the state information site: [COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

Board of Education Meetings:

Our Board of Education has made a change to the comment section of their meetings. During the pandemic, with board meetings held via zoom, public comment has been accomplished through contacting the district office prior to the meeting. At the meeting, the superintendent would read the communications and answer questions. Beginning with the January 21 meeting, district residents who would like to make a comment can now come to a designated location and share their comment or question via a zoom link. This allows for the safety of the commenter and board members. As at any time, commenters must adhere to [Board Policy 2370: Public Participation at Board Meetings](#). Once finished, the commenter must leave the location for others to comment and for the board meeting to proceed. Commentors may continue to listen or view the board meeting on their mobile devices using the live stream link: <http://ideas.gstbooces.org/hhds/>. Meetings are also recorded and placed on the Board of Education section of our website: [HCSD Board of Education](#).

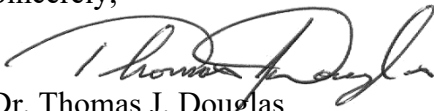
The designated location for the January 19 meeting is the Auditorium entrance at the High School (401 Fletcher Street). Board meeting schedule, locations, and agendas may be found [at this link](#).

Q&A:

We have placed a new link on our website with answers to questions posed by parents/guardians. We will update these Q&As as needed. To view the information, click here: [Parent/Guardian Questions and Answers](#).

We continue to remind families and residents to please follow safety protocols of staying home and avoiding gatherings when possible, wearing masks and maintaining safe distance when out, and washing hands thoroughly and often. Together we will weather this pandemic. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools

More Information:

[2020-21 Horseheads District Plan](#)
[itslearning](#)

[Safety Protocols](#)

[Social Emotional Support](#)

[Technology](#)