



# SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Director of Operations

Friday, January 14, 2022

Southwest Local School District Families & Staff:

As we have made adjustments to our *school safety* plans in the past, we are again needing to be both flexible and responsive due to the tremendous spikes in COVID-19 cases throughout the region, including our own staff and students. This problem is not unique to our district, as several school districts throughout the tri-state have closed or gone remote this week.

Due to excessive illness, we are no longer able to safely staff our schools. Due to the revised 5-day quarantine requirement for positive cases, the vast majority of our staff members are eligible to return on Wednesday, January 19. For this reason, all Southwest Local Schools will be closed on Tuesday, January 18. This will not be a remote learning day. The reason for issuing this notice today is to give families as much time as possible to make childcare arrangements. As a reminder, we are also off school on Monday, January 17 for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day federal holiday.

We believe this long weekend will assist in getting both our staff and students healthy and ready to return in-person on Wednesday. If anything changes between now and then, we will notify you as soon as possible, but it is our full intention to resume face-to-face instruction on Wednesday. All temporary universal masking that is currently in place has deadlines that principals have communicated previously. Those still stand.

## FOUR IMPORTANT THINGS WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON THIS MONTH:

1. Monitor your student for signs and symptoms of illness or COVID-19. Family health checks are essential and should be done each day **BEFORE** putting your child on the school bus or attending school. Please do not send a sick child to school.
2. Continue to let the school know if your child is showing symptoms, is awaiting a COVID-19 test result, or has a positive COVID-19 test.
3. Wash your hands frequently.
4. Be kind to others. Nobody wants to still be dealing with this virus. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have not known school without COVID. We fully understand the weight of this issue. We are doing our absolute best to keep kids in school, face to face, and living our mission. Our current situation is extremely fluid and our nurses / admin are doing everything possible to keep the two aforementioned priorities happening.

Thank you again for your trust and support as we make it through another evolving chapter of living and managing our daily school operations during this challenging time.

John C. Hamstra  
Superintendent  
Southwest Local Schools

**Mission:** “Academic and Social growth for all students, EVERY DAY!”

**Motto:** “Excellence through Relationships!”

**Core Values:** Trust, Respect, Ownership, and Leadership