



Ridgway Area School District

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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December 11, 2020

Dear RASD Parents, Guardians and Students,

The RASD Staff, Administration, and Board truly appreciate your efforts in helping to keep students, staff and the community safe. Unfortunately, the extent of community spread of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in increased student positivity rates, and increased rates of quarantine of students and staff.

Throughout this week, the District continues to experience growing numbers of positive student cases for COVID 19 and student quarantines for close contacts. At FSG another 4th grade student tested positive and a couple of students are awaiting test results. At RMS, three additional 8th grade students tested positive, with several 8th grade students having to quarantine. Given the new attestation requirements for PA Public Schools, the growing rate of positive students would result in another abrupt closure of in person instruction within a couple of days of reopening.

In addition, the District has thirteen staff members who are quarantined as a result of close contact with positive cases, both in school and outside of school. The high rate of quarantined staff results in a lack of supervision for in person instruction. Both the backlog of test results and the increase in holiday gatherings contribute to the spread of COVID-19, which increases the positive cases and close contacts for school staff and students.

These conditions, coupled with the substantial level of community spread, present significant health, safety, and instructional concerns for the students and staff of the District. Furthermore, the District believes that multiple and abrupt transitions to and from learning models would likely occur over the next couple of weeks and these transitions would not be beneficial to students or parents/guardians.

As a result, the District will remain in full remote learning from December 14-22, 2020; then from January 4-8, 2021. The District hopes to resume in person instruction and extra-curricular activities on Monday, January 11, 2021. These have been very trying times and very difficult decisions. Every decision made, has been with the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff in mind. We appreciate your patience and understanding. We hope that our students and their families stay safe over the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,


Heather A. McMahon-Vargas

RASD Superintendent

"Achievement Through Learning"

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