



Ridgway Area School District – COVID 19 Update

February 11, 2021

Dear RASD Parents and Students,

Happy Valentine's weekend to our RASD students and families. We hope that you are safe and healthy. As the principals have previously shared, Monday, February 15, 2021 is a snow make up day. The District will also be making up a snow day on Monday, March 15, 2021.

RASD wants to thank everyone for not letting your guards down with COVID 19. We appreciate your part in taking care of our students and staff! We know it has not been easy and at times it has been frustrating. Everyone has been extremely supportive and proactive about following the precautions and guidance. The staff and students across the District are doing a phenomenal job with staying home if they are sick, wearing face coverings, maintaining social distances, washing hands and avoiding gatherings.

As a result, Ridgway and Elk County have experienced a low level of community spread. However, it is important to stay vigilant with the new strains of the virus coming closer to our small rural community. If we take care of one another, by sticking together and following the guidance, we can keep the spread low. This will put us in a very positive place for the 4th quarter of this school year, where we may be able to begin "some more normal" activity.

Given the low community spread, RASD will close "voluntary enrollment in R-Learning". By Friday, February 19, 2021, students will need to have selected their learning model and will remain in that model for the rest of the 3rd quarter, unless they are COVID positive, a close contact, or have a documented medical reason for needing R-Learning. Students who are at risk of not passing for the school year will be notified and will be recommended to return to in person instruction in order to improve their learning opportunities.

If your student wishes to change their learning model, parents should notify the building principals by Friday, February 19, 2021. If there is no change, it is not necessary to contact the principals. For FSG students, please contact Pam Yeager at yeagerpam@rasd.us or call 814-776-2176. For RMHS students, please contact Heather McMahon-Vargas at mcmahonheather@rasd.us or call (814)773-3164. Mrs. McMahon-Vargas will be assisting with administrative duties at RMHS, as Mr. Podpora has requested personal leave. For parents whose children receive services from special education, please contact Erica Heindl at heindlerica@rasd.us or (814)776-4255. Have a great weekend and Happy Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,

Heather A. McMahon-Vargas

Heather A. McMahon-Vargas, RASD Superintendent



"Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into the water, the actions of an individual can have far reaching effects." – Dalai Lama