

River Dell Regional School District

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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March 21, 2020

Dear River Dell Community:

This message provides additional information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 virus on our schools.

- 1) We completed the first week of virtual learning. I realize this situation is not ideal and despite some glitches, our infrastructure worked well. We understand that there is a concern about the recording of student attendance. The administrative team is looking at the situation to determine how to standardize the process.
- 2) I remind you that this is an extraordinary time in our history, and it is natural that our children may suffer from anxiety. I sent the attached letter to all students yesterday. Please talk to your children about this issue. Give them basic facts and give them access to official information if they ask for it. They are watching social media, news reports, and adult reactions. They are more attuned than one may think. If you need guidance on what to say or how to say it, please contact your child's guidance counselor and we will provide whatever support we can.
- 3) As mentioned previously, we will not be addressing every rumor that pops up in the community. However, it is likely that statewide school closures will be extended. We hope this will not occur, but we are planning for the possibility and will provide more information as it becomes available.
- 4) Please note that effective, Wednesday, March 18, 2020, we reduced the personnel footprint in the buildings to essential personnel. The middle school, high school, technology and central offices will have staff daily. Our custodial and maintenance staff continue with enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Teachers, counselors, child study team members, nurses and all other personnel are working remotely and have the capacity to support students, families and each other.
- 5) Finally, we recognize that every time we answer a question another one comes up. For example, how grades are being assigned? and how will the third marking period close? We will provide these answers shortly as our goal is to communicate regularly. Please direct specific classroom questions to your child's teacher and administrative questions to school administration. Help is an e-mail or phone call away.

Together, we will persevere.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PJF", written over a white background.

Patrick Fletcher
Superintendent of Schools