

REDBANK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



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November 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The future of the district's instructional methods are uncertain at this time. We will remain in face-to-face instructional as long as possible while maintaining the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and community. In the event the district should move into remote instruction for all students, we want everyone to be prepared and aware of the process.

On Monday November 9, 2020 I participated in two virtual meetings. One was with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the other with Clarion County Superintendents. These meetings were to discuss a topic that I have been reviewing with the Board and yourselves since November 2, 2020.

The video call with the Pennsylvania Department of Education was arranged for all schools located in Clarion County in response to recent spikes in numbers of people testing positive for COVID19. Protocols within the department of education which are enacted when a county reaches an identified "substantial" level of cases is cause for the protocols to be initiated. A "substantial" level is identified by having >100 positive cases per 100,000 people or by having >10% positive cases in relation to tests given.

Clarion County has now been identified as being in the substantial phase for one week. The statistics indicate cases at 103 per 100,000 with a 6.9% positivity rate. The county also tracks age groups and if the cases can be traced to a specific event or location. At this time, we are being told that 65 % of the cases are through community spread.

Should the county be in "substantial" for two consecutive weeks, PDE will be making the recommendation that schools within Clarion County move to remote learning for all students. PDE has expressed that this is a recommendation to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Redbank Valley School Board will meet on Thursday November 12, 2020 to review the status of the county and determine the mode of instruction as we move forward and navigate the increasing numbers of positive COVID-19 cases.

In the event we must move to remote instruction for all students:

The administrative team met this morning, November 10, 2020, to review a plan moving forward if the decision is made to move into remote instruction for all students. First and foremost, each student will be issued a Chromebook. Your child will be bringing home a computer use/loan agreement. It is important that you read this document and return to your child's campus. This agreement is also located on the district website. This agreement is for students using computers/Chromebooks in and out of school.

The technology department will prepare the new equipment for distribution. Chromebooks are to be in Clarion tomorrow and in the district Thursday. It is the intent of the district to distribute Chromebooks to students on or before Wednesday November 18, 2020. If the district moves to remote instruction prior to the distribution of Chromebooks, parents will be asked to pick up their child's Chromebook at their

assigned campus. An informational email will provide parents with the steps and process when Chromebooks are available.

Teachers will communicate with students via email to provide assignments until all Chromebooks have been distributed to students. As we prepare for this unforeseen event, your child may be asked to transport school books and materials back and forth on a daily basis. We apologize for this inconvenience.

If and when the district moves into remote instruction, teachers will be providing instruction synchronous during a scheduled time. Your child's teacher will post their daily schedule as it aligns to the current schedule they are following. If for some reason your child is unable to login the class when it is being offered due to your family dynamics, the lessons will be recorded and posted in the teacher's Google Classroom.

If the district moves into remote instruction as a result of the Clarion County guidelines based on the number of cases per 100,000 and the % of positive cases under substantial; this process will last for at least 14 days. The county would need to remain in 'moderate' for two consecutive weeks in order for the district to return for face-to-face instruction.

In addition to teachers providing remote instruction, the district will provide meals to students while in remote instruction. This process will mirror the process that was in place last spring. Meals will be picked up for the family in a drive-through fashion at the high school. This central location permits the district to be efficient in the delivery of meals for those needing them. A survey will be sent asking if you will participate in meal pickup as we plan.

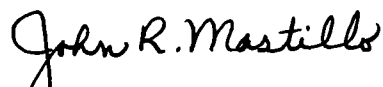
The district is preparing to offer an instructional model that is beneficial to all students if the need arises to provide remote instruction for all students. Our primary goal is the health and well-being of students, staff, and the community.

Even though the Pennsylvania Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Health are not currently recommending a change in mode of educational services, it is important for Redbank Valley to be prepared if Clarion County is in "substantial" for two consecutive weeks prompting the recommendation to move to 'remote learning'.

If the district moves to 'remote instruction' it is imperative that your child log in for each class to be counted as present for the day. Failing to do so may result in your child being marked with an unexcused absence. All courses will be provided remotely at their normally scheduled times as identified by your building principal and teacher.

As we navigate this situation, the district will post updates to Facebook, the District's website and One Call. It is our intent to keep you informed of the process as it unfolds. We appreciate your patience regarding the mitigation of the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Dr. John R. Mastillo