

# Osage Community School District

*The Mission of the Osage Community Schools is to sustain and enhance a caring community to produce enthusiasm for lifelong learning.*

November 20, 2020

Dear Green Devil Families,

Due to the rapid spike in COVID-19 cases in Mitchell County and the state of Iowa, we continue to re-evaluate our Return to Learn Plan and options to help slow the spread of the virus. Although we have not seen near the spread here at school, community spread has sent ripples back into our district with the quarantine process. **At this time we plan to stay with our 4 day a week, face to face model as long as we can staff our school. We can and will pivot if our data supports such decisions.**

At the November 16th School Board meeting, we discussed options and the administration recommended that IF a change is needed to be made we would start with all 7th - 12th grade students pausing face-to-face learning and pivoting to remote online learning. Preschool - 6th grade students would continue our 4 day face-to-face model as usual. This decision would be due to a multitude of reasons, including location of staff shortages, quarantines, and developmental appropriateness for students. This decision would allow our youngest learners to continue in an environment best for them. We have not made this move yet, but we wanted to keep you as informed as possible. Of course, any decision by the Governor or Department of Education would supersede this. **We have NOT needed to change yet and know that the actions of the community impact the schools ability to function. Simply stated, if we want in person education to continue we all need to do our part. What we all do on nights and weekends, and over the holiday, will affect our ability to stay open!**

CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield said on Thursday, 11/19/20 that K-12 schools should remain open because data shows that schools are among the “safest places” that kids can be from the pandemic. “Today, there’s extensive data that we have—we’ve gathered over the last two to three months—that confirm that K-12 schools can operate with face-to-face learning and they can do it safely and they can do it responsibly,” Redfield said. “The infections that we’ve identified in schools when they’ve been evaluated were not acquired in schools. They were actually acquired in the community and in the household.” This is the same data we have seen locally and across Iowa.

## **Mitchell County data(11/20/20):**

Total (cumulative) confirmed cases: 679 Recovered cases: 256

Confirmed Deaths: 15 Active cases: 408 14 day average positivity rate: 25%

**Osage Schools data as (11/20/20):** 0 elementary, 4 MS and 3 positive cases at HS for a total of 7 students district wide. There are 2 staff currently positive.

This Thanksgiving, we are beyond grateful for the 14 weeks of face to face instruction, thankful for our outstanding staff and their dedication and willingness to be lifelong learners, and are blessed with students and supportive families, and a community that wants us to succeed!!!

Please stay healthy and have a great weekend and may you count your blessings this Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Schwamman



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