



November 20, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Since August, Niles Community Schools has learned a lot about the value and benefits of controlled environments (like schools) versus social environments (like gatherings with friends and family) and the impact each has on the spread of COVID-19. As an organization, we have seen first-hand the impact of how social gatherings increase the probability that individuals will become infected. Despite our ability to contact trace, mitigate risk, and limit the spread of the disease in our school buildings, we are watching COVID-19 cases as well as hospitalizations rise in our community. COVID-19 quarantines have also significantly impacted our staff. To fill the staffing gaps, we have been shuffling responsibilities, reassigning staff and hiring substitutes, if there are any available. Our valued partners at the Berrien County Health Department are also being overwhelmed with cases and their own staff shortages.

Given that the Thanksgiving holiday will soon be upon us, we want to approach this time of celebration proactively. We want to return to school following the break as safely as possible while continuing to recognize the importance of in-person instruction for students - we know it is the best way to meet their academic, social, emotional, and physical needs. Therefore, we are taking the following proactive measure: **Niles Community Schools will temporarily shift to remote learning November 30-December 1, 2020 at all grade levels PK-12.** This will not impact students in our Virtual Viking program. This will allow for a period of time where families and staff can monitor for symptoms following the break. This will be an attempt to intentionally ensure everyone is as healthy as possible and allow us to reduce potential quarantines in order to **return to in-person instruction for Pre-kindergarten through 8th grade on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.**

Similar to our Remote Learning Days during November conferences, we will run the following schedule to allow for live remote instruction:

Northside Remote Learning Schedule***	
All Montessori & AM ECSE Start	8:45
Montessori Specials (Kinder Only, Pre-K Logs Off)	10:05-10:35
ECSE AM End	10:45
Montessori AM End	11:15
ECSE PM Start	11:25
Montessori Full Day End	12:45
ECSE PM End	1:25

*****Please watch for communication from your teacher on any schedule changes that might occur.**

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NILES

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Students are expected to log onto their Google Classrooms at the required times and attendance will be taken. Students will take home all necessary instructional materials for November 30th and December 1st by Tuesday, November 24th, including a Chromebook.

Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher with any questions or concerns regarding logging on for remote instruction.

Thank you in advance for your flexibility, understanding and support. We want to provide in-person instruction for as long as it is safe to do so. Please continue following all recommended COVID-19 mitigation strategies, reporting positive household cases, supporting our quarantine efforts, and keeping your child home when sick. It is only when all of us work together are we able to make the learning environment safe and healthy for your child and all students.

Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving,

Dr. Dan Applegate, Superintendent

Jeron Blood, Principal