



School District of Brodhead

Learning Today for a Better Tomorrow

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Dear Governor Evers, Senator Ringhand, and Representative Spreitzer:

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As you have been hearing from the different school districts, it is pretty easy to see that this pandemic has affected us all in similar ways, but also in very different ways as well. While many districts have had some pretty amazing results, our surveys have not painted such a rosy picture.

As we were saying our goodbyes for spring break, news started funneling in about schools closing down. We hurriedly made announcements for our students to pack their computers and materials to take home in case we did not come back. Little did we know, not only would we not return after spring break, but we would not return for the remainder of the school year. Our students and staff left with no preparation for the aftermath of what we now call the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a few days of meetings and preparations, we rolled out what we thought was about the best educational offering we could put together considering the circumstances we were under. While we received a tremendous amount of positive emails concerning the work we did to put our program together, our survey results did not paint such a rosy picture. Our main question on the survey concerned the overall experience with our Home-Based Learning program:

- 58% of responses felt the program was moderately effective
- 23% felt that it was not effective
- 19% felt it was extremely effective

As mentioned earlier, while we were receiving letters of thanks and appreciation, there were flaws as well. The number one issue was consistency between teachers, grade levels, and departments. Some were doing too much, some not enough. We also encountered issues with internet access. While we only had twenty families that did not have internet access, many families struggled with inconsistent connectivity, especially if there were multiple users. For these families, we set up a system to drop off and pick up work for their students.

While we struggled with the academic side of education, our Food Service program has been outstanding. We are serving approximately 600 meals a day with very high satisfaction ratings. We set up a drive through concept and it takes less than a minute for a car to pull up, get their meals, and leave. Thanks to some great generosity in our community, we are also giving out a gallon of milk and pound of cheese to each family, each week. Last week we gave out packaged brats as well.

The one thing that has truly amazed me throughout this situation is the attitude and willingness from our staff and community to support students and families. The outpouring of generosity and willingness to volunteer has been unbelievable as well. Our staff has stepped up to every challenge and have worked tirelessly to address issues and concerns. Our parents have been supportive and dedicated to helping their students succeed in a strenuous, at-home atmosphere. While this situation has been one of the most challenging of my career, it has also been one of the most rewarding as well. I could not be any prouder of our staff and community!

Sincerely,

Leonard Lueck
Brodhead School District Superintendent