



Parkview School District

106 W. Church Street – P.O. Box 250 Phone: 608-879-2717
Orfordville, WI 53576-0250 Fax: 608-879-2732
WEB Site: www.parkview.k12.wi.us

May 15, 2020

Dear Senator Ringhand:

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and your colleagues well. I would like to provide you with an update from the Parkview School District as we address the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parkview School District was in full swing when Governor Evers announced the Safer at Home Order on Friday March 13. During the 2019-20 school year Parkview initiated Amplify, a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum, for our students in grade 4K-8th grade. The winter interim ELA assessment results showed strong growth which we attribute to excellent instruction, strong leadership and the new Amplify curriculum. Parkview also added more than a dozen dual-credit classes in 2019-20 to allow students to earn both high school and college credit for classes taught by Parkview faculty. Parkview also increased the number of AP courses and the number of students enrolled in AP courses. Parkview received our State District report card in October of 2019 and it revealed that Parkview's district score was the highest of any district in Rock or Green County. This rating again is due to excellent instruction, strong leadership and our District's investment in high quality research-proven teaching materials.

Within an hour of Governor Evers announcing the Safer at Home Order, the Parkview administrative team organized a plan to develop a virtual learning framework. The admin team and technology integrators met on March 16-17 and developed a plan for training the teachers on March 18-20. By the end of the day on Friday, March 20, the Parkview staff had developed a virtual learning platform, created the first week of lesson plans and activities, distributed and iPad or Chromebook to all 5K-12 students and communicated the virtual learning plan to parents and students. We also planned and implemented a grab-n-go breakfast and lunch program that has been distributing over 300 meals per day.

The Parkview teachers, administrators, instructional support staff, food service team and custodial/maintenance staff have been outstanding through the entire safer at home order. Each employee has been extremely responsive and positive in regard to each and every obstacle. Parents and students have been cooperative and patient as we rolled out the virtual learning plan. In reflecting back on the course of events since March 13, Parkview's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic has been nothing short of impressive.

Parkview Elementary School
106 W. Church St
Orfordville, WI 53576-0127
Office: 608-879-2956
Fax: 608-879-9375

Parkview Jr./Sr. High School
408 W. Beloit St.
Orfordville, WI 53576-0247
Office: 608-879-2994
Fax: 608-879-9735

Pupil Services
408 W. Beloit St.
Orfordville, WI 53576-0127
Office: 608-879-2352
Fax: 608-879-9735

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Parkview regularly measures its effectiveness using data and feedback. Implementing virtual learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic has been no different. The District surveyed parents to analyze the effectiveness of the virtual learning program and has received very positive feedback. With over 260 responses from parents, 95.1% stated Parkview has been very supportive during virtual learning, 91.3% stated Parkview's Virtual Learning website was useful and easy to navigate and 88.4% graded Parkview with an "A" or "B" on how we handled the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This parent quote is consistent with the feedback we have received regarding Parkview's Virtual Learning plan.

"I have so many teachers on my list that need a shout out! With four kids, this online learning has been interesting, difficult, and some days fun! We have our crying moments and our laughing moments. My kids and myself would not have made it through this online learning without all of the teachers helping us and spending the time to help the kids when they have questions. I feel we all will come out of this with a different connection with teachers, parents, and students. Being able to share a little deeper into the kids at home lives with their teachers. I want to thank all the teachers for everything they do!"

I hope this information outlines the quality of the Parkview staff. While we have successfully transitioned to virtual learning, it has not been without obstacles. The main obstacle in our rural district has been poor quality internet. Parkview purchased 40 wifi hotspots and data plan and distributed these to needy families but our parent survey showed over 30% of our families have internet issues. These 40 wifi hotspots cost Parkview \$1,600 per month, which was not in our 2019-20 budget. Childcare issues have also been a big problem. Many parents are still working and are unable to monitor or assist their kids during the school day. Lastly, meeting the social and emotional and special education needs of the Parkview students is more challenging when done remotely.

Thank you for reading Parkview's journey through the COVID-19 Pandemic. As we move forward, I welcome your call or email so that I can explain Parkview's work and answer any questions you may have. I will also provide you with additional updates. Certainly, much work remains as we finish the school year, begin the summer school session, and prepare for the start of the new school year this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Lutzke".

Dr. Steve Lutzke, Parkview School District Superintendent

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