



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TURTLE LAKE

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*"The Turtle Lake School Community instills excellence in staff and students producing graduates with the knowledge and tools necessary to excel in all aspects of life."*

Kent M. Kindschy, District Administrator    Troy Wagner, PK-5 Principal    Jason Hinze, MS/HS Principal

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May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Senator Bewely, Senator Schachtner, Representative Quinn, and Representative Magnafici,

I hope this letter finds you, your family, and colleagues well. I would like to provide an update from the School District of Turtle Lake regarding the work of our School Board, staff, and communities during the COVID pandemic. I would like to state that our small community is outstanding and makes me proud to say that I live in Turtle Lake, Wisconsin.

Our CESA 11 staff have kept us very well informed from before the COVID shut down until the present. We had an idea the shutdown was coming and started to prepare the week prior. Our staff were nothing short of amazing on how they took in person classes and flipped them online. In a 2012 referendum, our school community supported a 1:1 device program for grades 6-12. The community's continued support in the 2017 referendum has allowed us to maintain the 1:1 program and expand technology availability to our younger students. Having these devices in our students' hands aided the transition to online learning. We delivered 55 Chromebooks and 9 iPads to elementary students' homes. Ten percent of our middle and high school homes did not have internet connectivity; therefore, we had 10 hot spots that we were already using. We ordered 40 more hot spots from T-Mobile and Verizon and waited for several weeks for them to arrive. Once we had them, they were quickly delivered to those who did not have access to any internet services.

With many families out of work and not making a consistent income, feeding their children quickly became a huge hurdle. From the very first day of the school closure, Taher, our food service, and our support staff have been preparing meals for pick up or delivery. We are now providing meals to 50% of our students. The food pantry had a big increase in distribution and we also had local food producers dropping off food for our deliveries and pickups. During a regular school year, we have a backpack program of XX backpacks of food that are purchased by community donated funds. These backpacks go out on Fridays so kids have food to eat on the weekends. This program has increased during the school closure to 33 backpacks each week. We plan to keep these programs going into the summer. These programs would not be available to our families if it was not for the generous support of our community.

The saying goes that it takes a village to raise a child. It takes our entire community to support our students and their families during this pandemic, and I am grateful for our awesome community during these tough times.

Kent Kindschy

Superintendent

*The School District of Turtle Lake does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.*