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# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NORTH FOND DU LAC

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Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

## **RE: The School District of North Fond du Lac – Open for Education!**

Dear Representative Schraa, Representative Thiesfeldt, and Senator Feyen,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the children of our community and the state of Wisconsin. Your support and leadership through this unprecedented time in our lives are needed and appreciated. I would like to share with you what our schools have looked like since the closing of our buildings on March 16<sup>th</sup> and how we have continued to support the needs of our students and families.

We are entering the final days of the 2019 – 2020 school year and look forward to celebrating the Class of 2020 in on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> or in early August. I will be sharing our story through the categories that reflect our District's three main goals:

- Promote a Happy Culture for ALL
- Maximize Student Learning in Literacy for ALL
- Provide High Quality Instruction for ALL

During the Pandemic we have implemented many practices that have helped us continue to address these goals as well as develop new tools that we are leveraging to make our educational practices and culture more effective when we get back to our buildings. Our buildings may be closed, but school is open!!

### **Promote a Happy Culture for ALL**

Research shows that when students, staff and families are in a positive emotional state (happy), all metrics of learning, behavior, emotional wellness and achievement grow.

- Communications
  - Hosting Virtual social and emotional support groups
  - Daily family communication from principals via email and social media
  - Leveraging YouTube for video communications and celebrations
- Celebrations
  - Wall of Gratitude, student awards, appreciation videos, positive messages/photos from staff to students and families, end of year memory videos
  - Sharing and publishing photos (social media, website) of students and teachers engaging in digital learning
  - All Seniors had signs put in their yards by teachers.
  - Virtual Events (Pep Rally - 137 participants; Talent Show, Band Concert, 6th Grade Orientation, Honors Assembly, End of Year Videos).
- Meals and Nutrition
  - Since March 18<sup>th</sup> - 9,240 lunches and 9,240 breakfasts (Average 350 each per day)
  - 6 Locations with daily help from paraprofessionals and staff
  - Free breakfasts and lunches will continue to be provided 5 days a week to all children of our community through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- How we are supporting our kids and families emotionally
  - Friendship Learning Center (FLC) Parent Connection (<https://tinyurl.com/NFDLparent>) to share resources for wellness and self-care for families and students.
  - Friendship Faces - daily opportunities for K-5 students to connect with non-classroom teachers, paraprofessionals and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) team - before, during, and after school to 7pm.
  - Professional counseling continues virtually through Rawhide and Doll and Associate

- Bessie Allen Middle School (BAMS) Counselor contacts home and leads Mindfulness Monday Activities.
- Access to Mental Health Navigator.
- Parent and Student Wellness Newsletters
- Freshmen hangouts with Mr. Mauthe to promote togetherness
- Trauma Team supported staff and students facing a crisis with handmade blankets, connections to therapists, phone calls and community supports

### **Maximize Student Learning in Literacy for ALL**

Helping all students be better readers, writers and thinkers.

- Elementary:
  - Early Childhood/4K teachers share daily virtual read alouds with vocabulary words, suggestions for free literacy apps and deliver academic printed materials to families
  - 5K - 5th grade teachers are recording daily literacy lessons aligned to standards and using Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading and Writing, as well as Phonics (K-2) and Word Work (3-5)
  - Elementary students receiving Tier 3 literacy intervention prior to the shutdown continued to have intervention services provided virtually
  - 12 Elementary teachers received additional 3-day virtual training in Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Phonics through Teachers College at Columbia University, with emphasis on teaching the curriculum both in person and when using an online platform (April and May)
  - 10 Elementary teachers will receive additional 5-day virtual training in Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Writing through Teachers College at Columbia University, with emphasis on teaching the curriculum both in person and when using an online platform (June, July and August)
  - 5 Elementary teachers will receive additional 5-day virtual training in Lucy Calkins Units of Study in Reading through Teachers College at Columbia University, with emphasis on teaching the curriculum both in person and when using an online platform (June, July and August)
  - 54% of all students in grades K-5 maintained perfect attendance during Digital Learning Days
  - Elementary Principal posts nightly read aloud to social media, school web page and nightly emails to families (readers include principal, paraprofessionals, non-classroom teachers, retirees)
- Secondary
  - Organization of courses at Middle and High School to focus on reading and writing
  - Middle School: 86% course completion rate overall for the entire school during Remote Learning.
  - Students receiving extra support at High School using the Reading Plus program
  - Wednesday support meetings at High School with English teachers

### **Provide High Quality Instruction for ALL**

Provide high quality lessons and supports to allow students to maximize learning.

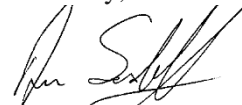
- Technology:
  - Instructional technology, Chromebooks and iPads - 1 to 1 for many years, able to deploy Chromebooks and iPads to most of our 1530 students in less than 1 day
  - Help Desk tickets – over 360 help tickets created since March 17<sup>th</sup> (does not include direct emails to tech team)
  - MiFi's- 61 devices distributed - all students had access to the internet
  - Utilization of online classroom management systems, Google Classroom for 5K – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and Power School for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Each of the 28 teachers in K-5 recorded and posted over 175 original lessons in reading, writing and math, in addition to supplementing with videos and technology from others – over 4,900 new lessons!
- Elementary music, art, physical education and guidance continued to be offered each week
- Special Education
  - 310 students serviced through IEPs continued to receive instruction through digital learning and encouragement/support from special education staff through virtual meetings and phone calls
  - 125 IEP meetings were held virtually during the closure
  - 101 students participated in virtual speech and language therapy sessions during the closure
- Treffert Way For the Exceptional Mind Charter School students participated in virtual social skills groups and learning opportunities

- Learning for Independence (18-21 program) transitioned to digital learning and 14 students graduated from the program in May
- Statistics for online learning
  - Google Meet - 89% percent of District staff and students use an average of 105 minutes a day.
  - Gmail - Average 30,000 a day
  - Google Classroom - 180 total active classes, students on average spend 325 minutes on active usage per day
  - PowerSchool (9-12 learning system)over 480 unique visitors, 30,000+ visits, 7,000+ hours logged in, 265,000+ areas accessed
- Staff development:
  - The Oriole Technology Flight School (<https://tinyurl.com/OrioleFS>) was launched to support teachers in distance learning best practices. Those will continue. A considerable number of staff have reached out to the technology support team for troubleshooting, support ideas, and educational technology support.

Thank you for your time reading about Oriole Nation during the pandemic. We have had many successes while overcoming many challenges, difficulties and frustrations. I am very proud of the 192 staff members of the School District of North Fond du Lac, our over 1500 students and our parents and families! There is much uncertainty in the future, but we are very certain of one thing, schools will never be the same, we will use this time to make them better for all students.

Be Safe and Well. Thank you for supporting our students, staff and communities.

Sincerely,



**Aaron Sadoff - Superintendent**

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