



July 30, 2021

Friday Focus...

A Family-Friendly Weekly Update

Notes:

Dear Dynamos:

Preparing for the uncertainty of the Pandemic at Allegheny Valley, and all aspects of our lives, has not been easy nor perfect. Yet, I am humbled by the efforts of our teachers, students, administrators, School Board, and parents to consistently adjust to a wave of unpredictable changes. These individuals continued to make needed adjustments at each twist in the road to ensure our students continued to receive the best possible education under consistently fluctuating circumstances.

As Allegheny Valley prepares to welcome our students for the 2021-2022 school year, I'd like to update you on the District's Health & Safety Plan that the Board of Directors will consider for the beginning of the school year. The adoption and submission of the plan is a requirement for the District to participate in the American Rescue Plan and use ESSER Funds. This funding is an important part of the District's budget.

With that in mind, the School Board will consider approving the Health & Safety Plan at their August 17, 2021 meeting. A draft of the plan will be posted on the District web site homepage. However, listed below are some critical items to note from the plan:

- Contact tracing will continue to identify and quarantine close contacts when positive COVID cases are identified. The District will continue to consult the Allegheny County Health Department about contact tracing.
- Wearing correctly fitted mask can limit the likelihood of quarantine because of a Covid-19 exposure at school.
 - Masks will be **mandatory** for PK-12 students and staff to begin the school year.
 - Masks will be mandatory on school busses.
- Students will be socially distanced by 6 feet during lunch and activities that require masks to be removed, such as playing an instrument.
- Masks will **not be required** for K-6 students **when outside for recess**.
- The Allegheny Valley Board of School Directors reserves the right to make changes to the plan based on local conditions/metrics, guidance from local and national agencies, and recommendations from health organizations.

- The District's plans **will** change abruptly; we often receive information at the same time as all of you.

As I see it, our school year will begin very much the way it ended with a few changes. One of those changes is that the District will not run concurrent virtual and in-class options as we did last school year unless students are required to quarantine. However, the District will continue to use a third-party provider to offer a 100% virtual option (Dynamo Virtual Academy) for any student who prefers this learning mode to begin the 2021-2022 school year.

We still have a way to go with this virus. We cannot stress enough that as we continue to move through this phase of the pandemic, things will continue to change quickly. Allegheny Valley's plan is also subject to change with little notice, based on the guidance from the Center of Disease Control and other local or state agencies. We strongly recommend that families consider to put their own student plan in place in the event that schools may have to close within a short time frame. Planning ahead can prove to reduce stress during these times. Please continue to check emails and the School District homepage for important updates.

Working together, we will continue to celebrate successes throughout the coming months. I look forward to maintaining our collaborative efforts throughout the 2021-2022 school year!

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Graczyk, Ed.D.



Allegheny Valley School District
Together We Can
