

# PEWAUKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 9, 2020

Dear Asa Clark Middle School Families:

We are writing to inform you that due to increasing rates of COVID-19 related infection and quarantine **we have decided to move Asa Clark Middle School into temporary virtual learning** (phase zero of the [PSD Stay Safe to Stay Open plan](#) - page 21) **starting this Thursday, November 12th through Friday, November 20th**. Our goal is for students to return back to phase 2 in-person attendance (4 days in-person/Wednesday virtual) starting **Monday, November 23rd** at which time we anticipate having adequate staff return from isolation and quarantine. We are waiting to implement this change until Thursday to provide families with more time to make arrangements.

Over the course of the past several weeks, the rates of infection in the state, county, and our community census tracts have risen dramatically and we are experiencing growing challenges, specifically regarding our staff, within our schools. We are not alone as the majority of Waukesha County school districts now have classrooms, grade levels or full schools in virtual environments. These staffing challenges are putting significant strain on substitute teaching availability in our area resulting in multiple teaching vacancies not able to be covered in addition to other staff positions that have unfilled absences. On Tuesday (11/10/2020) we will be redeploying administrative staff and specialists into the affected classrooms for support and supervision while in most cases, the regular teacher provides live instruction from home.

For this temporary move to virtual learning, students will continue to engage in live instruction with their teachers and classmates. Students will be expected to log on to their classes, and follow their normal class schedule, much like they did when learning from home during hybrid learning. Similarly, please notify the Asa Health Room if your student experiences COVID-like symptoms since we will continue to conduct contact tracing even while students are in temporary virtual learning.

We understand that this decision places a burden on all families. It was necessary to implement this change to effectively maintain operations during the staffing shortage and for the health and safety of students and staff. If you have specific questions regarding the reasoning for this decision please contact either Dr. Cady or Mr. Pizzo. If you have specific questions or concerns related to your student's learning please contact the appropriate teacher.

Sincerely,

Mike Cady; PhD  
Superintendent  
[cadymic@pewaukeeschools.org](mailto:cadymic@pewaukeeschools.org)

Anthony Pizzo  
ACMS Principal  
[pizzant@pewaukeeschools.org](mailto:pizzant@pewaukeeschools.org)

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