

Gibraltar School District

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Dear Staff and GSD Families,

October 30, 2020

As we end our 8th week of face-to-face instruction in our district and I reflect on the journey to today, I can't help but feel incredibly proud of the work that our staff, students, and families have done along the way! GSD has strong mitigation practices in place and we are extremely appreciative of the effort our entire GSD community has put forth to keep COVID out of our schools. It is important that we keep this momentum going and continue to use safe mitigation practices not only in our schools, but out in our community. As a reminder, our social interactions in and outside of school have a direct impact on our ability to hold in person learning.

We rely on our entire school community to work together to prevent the spread. I encourage you to continue to have frequent conversations with your children about COVID-19 safety. While many of these topics have drawn a lot of attention in the media (especially social media) and in our own interactions with others, most COVID-19 safety precautions are good habits or easier practices for even our youngest students to follow. The practices include wearing a cloth face covering or mask when in close proximity with others outside your household, practicing frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, watching for potential symptoms of illness before going to school each day and lastly, if your child is being tested for COVID-19, please **keep them home** and **do not** send them to school while you await test results. Finally, we know it's hard, but when possible, stay away from family gatherings and other indoor activities that increase the spread of COVID-19.

Over the last 8 weeks, we have been working closely with the Wayne County Health Department (WCHD) and our intermediate school district (Wayne RESA), to monitor local COVID-19 cases and positivity rates, as well as mitigation strategies in place in our schools. With the rise in cases in our state and county, we are closely watching the community data and are actively gathering guidance from both WCHD and Wayne RESA so we can carefully determine our steps moving forward.

Below are links to two letters from the Wayne County Health Department, which provide an update to the current community spread risk level and their recommendation for us to stay the course at this time with continued strict mitigation measures from our approved plan in place.

- [Wayne County Community Risk Level Dashboard Guidance](#)
- [Gibraltar School District COVI-19 Mitigation Plan Approval Letter](#)

We will continue this close collaboration with WCHD as they are able to provide expert guidance to school districts throughout the county. The health department will make a recommendation to the district if we would reach a point where we are to pause face-to-face learning at a school or schools and shift to remote learning for a period of time.

As numbers continue to increase across the state and within the county, I want to remind everyone that we have remote learning Wednesdays every week to practice for a situation where a building or buildings may have to go remote for a period of time. Please make sure that you are ready for this possibility and know login information for your parent Schoology account and that you are preparing your student for this as well. Creating a plan for remote learning at home will help for an easier transition if this was to occur. As a reminder, remote learning this year will look much different than last spring. All assignments, quizzes, and

scores count and students are required to attend live sessions and participate fully in remote learning. If remote learning was to occur, information will be provided by your child's principal and teacher(s) on the format for each day of remote learning. Setting expectations with your child now is a proactive step that will make for a successful remote learning experience.

I know that this pandemic has impacted us all and that many of us, myself included, feel exhausted at times by all of the changes that it has brought. Despite all of this, I have watched our community come together to support our students and work cooperatively to adjust our practices so that we minimize our risk in our schools. We are committed to remaining vigilant in our use of safety mitigation practices as outlined in our plan approved by the county and I know that with continued safety practices in our community, our students will be safer and have the greatest opportunity to remain face-to-face. I'm appreciative of the sacrifices our staff, students, and community have made this year and want to thank you for your continued partnership and patience during this time.

Your Partner in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Conway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Conway

Superintendent