



Shelby Public Schools

Learning Today for a Successful Tomorrow

Dear Parents,

Every evening the news is about the spread of the coronavirus across our nation. Every day we hear and read more headlines about schools canceling activities and events, closing buildings or entire districts due to a rise in infection rates. We know this pandemic is real and is negatively affecting our state and county at an increasing rate.

Shelby Schools is not immune from this virus. We have needed to ask students and staff to both isolate, because they tested positive, or quarantine, because they have come into close contact with people who have tested positive.

Despite all of the difficult and trying news, we know the best and happiest place for our students is in our school buildings. We also know it is the safest place for our students. Every week we hear updates from the medical directors of our local health department and they continue to confirm that schools are doing a great job enforcing safety protocols, and this is why most of the COVID cases are not tracked back to schools, but are truly community related transmissions.

Every Thursday we get updates from the health department that oversees our county, Health Department #10. Below are important notes from yesterday's meeting.

- Health Department and school officials together, will continue to evaluate the situation within schools.
- Schools are seeing some cases due to community transmission but very little transmission within the schools.
- The Health Department will not make any "general" recommendations to change to remote education. Decisions will be made at a granular level (classroom, grade level, building, district) where the circumstances dictate such action.
- If schools are having excessive disruption due to cases, contact tracing, quarantine of staff/students they could choose to transition to remote education.
- The time to go fully remote is when there is persistent spread within the school.
- The risk of remote education detrimentally impacting the physical/social/emotional/educational health of our students is higher than the spread of the virus in our schools... as it stands right now.
- If remote learning is needed, the Health Department suggests trying to keep K-5 (or K-8) in person as long as possible as risks for transmission in younger students is lower and childcare issues/challenges with remote learning are greater with younger students.

We need your help to continue keeping our in-person education available. We are approaching what typically can be a difficult part of the school year. This is a time of year when the weather turns colder keeping people inside, and cold/flu illnesses generally spike upward. Shelby Schools may be adversely impacted by the variables we cannot control and we may need to shut down like some other schools.

Central Office

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(231) 861-5416 fax

Shelby High School

641 N. State Street
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-4452
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Shelby Middle School

525 N. State Street
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-4521
(231) 861-0415 fax

New Era Elementary

2752 Hillcrest Drive
New Era, MI 49446
(231) 861-2662
(231) 861-6203 fax

Thomas Read Elementary

155 Sixth Street
Shelby, MI 49455
(231) 861-5541
(231) 861-6764 fax

Early Childhood Center

155 Sixth Street
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(231) 861-6629
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That said, every day we are able to stay open is a win for our students, our families, and our community. Through your efforts to keep your children healthy and away from this virus, we will be able to continue to stay open as long as we are safely able to do so.

Some day we will return to a normal school look and feel, a system we were familiar with before this pandemic, but at the moment, we are still fighting this virus. Your continued efforts at home and away from school to mitigate the spread of this virus are appreciated.

Thank you for all that you do.

Tim