

The School District Report
By Scott Johnson, District Administrator
October 2020

Greetings to All District Residents!

The October School District Report will focus on our school district's attention to COVID-19. It is our intention to do everything within our power to keep our students, families, staff, and community as safe and healthy as possible. We are clearly living in an unprecedented time that seems far from being under control. Consequently, we have had many questions to address and details to account for to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Here is a summary of things we know to date:

- As of October 27, 2020, the New Auburn School District has three employees that have tested positive with COVID-19. We also have at least six employees placed on quarantine due to being identified as "close contacts" to those who tested positive. These numbers may rise because we have other staff members with symptoms who are waiting for test results.
- We know of a couple of families in our school district who have had positive test results and that led to our middle school being closed initially due to multiple students who were close contacts.
- We have now decided to close the entire school building from October 26 - November 6. Tentatively, we hope to have classes resume on Monday, November 9th.
- All athletic events and other extracurricular events are cancelled until school resumes.
- All teachers have been prepared for this temporary school closure. They will be teaching all of their classes remotely. All students have received a personal computer device from the school and they have all been trained on how to log in and sit in a virtual classroom.
- All students had the opportunity to practice this drill last week because we kept them home on Thursday so they could experiment with virtual education. That training went quite well and we are confident that education will go on as normal as possible.
- Our teachers have the option of teaching from home, or coming into our school to teach from their classrooms. Those coming to their classrooms will have strict social distancing and masking restrictions in place.
- Our school building is closed to all students during this closure; however, if a student needs something from their locker, parents may contact the school and the student can come and get what they need, provided they are not under quarantine
- We have decided to discontinue the temperature screening at the school bus stops and the front entrances of the school once we return to the building, because the colder temperatures are causing inaccurate readings. We strongly encourage families to temperature screen your own children in the mornings and keep them home if they have a fever or any other related symptoms.

- We regret to inform our community that we are unable to provide meals to the families during this closure. This COVID situation has reached our staff to an extent that we do not have any people who can package the meals and we do not have the staff needed to transport the meals at this time.
- All school facilities will be closed until further notice to any outside organizations. We will continue to accept requests for facility use and make reservations for future use, but these dates will not be guaranteed until we are beyond the current health risks.
- Our school board will revisit all COVID-19 related restrictions and decisions each month to consider possible changes.
- The administration will continue to post up-to-date information and changes as they happen on our district webpage and through our social media site on Facebook.
- Any students or parents with questions about their virtual instruction should be looking at the district webpage under our temporary school closure link. Each teacher has posted specific information that outlines what students need to do for their classes.

If any family or district resident has unanswered questions, please feel free to contact the administration listed below. We wish all of you great health and great experiences with your remote learning.

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