



September 15, 2021

Dear Families,

As the upcoming break nears, we wanted to touch base with you and provide you some timely District updates:

To begin, the first trimester ends on September 17, 2021. Students will be on fall break from September 20 – October 4, 2021. October 4th will be an all staff professional development day focused on safety. **Students will return to school October 5, 2021.** Parent teacher conferences will be held the week beginning October 15, 2021.

As COVID-19 continues to affect our community, we are adapting to changing and updating protocols and implementing solutions to issues as they arise. One new protocol is an option for families to choose to have their children **quarantine in school** if they are identified as a close contact while attending school. This is called **modified quarantine**. A qualifying student may remain in school on a modified quarantine if they test immediately following notification and at least every three (3) days during quarantine. Students may choose to be tested by their own doctor but must show proof that testing occurred in the same timeframes to remain at school.

We heard from families that it was difficult to find **testing locations and secure appointments**. Therefore, last week, we contracted with a third party to provide testing, free of charge, at schools in our district. Testing is now available before and after school, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and breaks. This in-district testing is **by referral only** for students identified during the contact tracing process. If your child is identified as a close contact, testing information and locations will be provided to you with your close contact notification. Please do not show up to these testing sites without prior notification that your child is on the list.

For families that choose to quarantine at home, or cannot fulfill the testing requirement, students need to participate in **short-term independent study**. Teachers will prepare independent work for students within 24 hours of beginning quarantine, and students will access their work through the Schoology program on their district issued device. Once students complete and submit their work, they will be given credit for attendance.

Students with symptoms must go home immediately and are not eligible for in-district testing. This is to limit potential exposure to others. Students with symptoms are coded as absent due to personal illness and not eligible for short-term independent study. This is because we want students to rest and get better.

Finally, we recognize that there are many questions regarding the many regulations from our health department, testing, quarantining, etc. Thank you for your patience as our principals, office staff, and school health assistants work to respond to the many calls and emails. We are currently **working with a company to establish a hotline** for families. We will share more information as soon as this becomes available.

As always, we thank you for choosing National School District. Have a restful fall break.

Sincerely,

Leighangela Brady, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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