



GLEN LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

“Anchored in Strength”

November 6, 2021

Dear Laker Families:

Thank you for your patience and understanding this week as we experienced, by far, the highest number of students and staff that would have been out for COVID-related reasons this school year. Our data shows that 91 individuals would have been out had we had school to end the week.

Members of our Executive Team (including Jason Stowe) and Dr. Karczewski met this afternoon to discuss our current situation. **Collectively, we have decided that our best course of action is to cancel classes on Monday, November 8, with the plan to resume on Tuesday, November 9.**

The positive news is that Tuesday begins a more significant return of both staff and students from quarantine. One thing we have undoubtedly learned through this is that we are day-to-day and anything can change. Again, we will continue to monitor cases through the remainder of the weekend and through Monday. **Unless something unforeseen occurs, we plan to see our students and staff on Tuesday morning.**

I want to share the key points that we discussed in coming to the decision:

- We have experienced 10 additional cases since closing Wednesday afternoon. Two were reported on Thursday, 4 on Friday, and **4 additional elementary cases today**. Because of this, we will be cancelling instruction on Monday due to conditions not within the control of school authorities on (*State School Aid Act, MCL 388.1701*).
- Unfortunately, the State of Michigan has changed the pupil accounting rules from last year, which makes it time prohibitive to count virtual instruction toward the 180 required days.
- The number of quarantined students is currently higher than students quarantined on Thursday, and barring any additional quarantines, Monday begins a downward trend.
- One of our preschool classrooms remains closed through November 12 due to multiple positive COVID cases and the high number of students/staff in quarantine.

- High numbers of staff absences (nearly 29% in elementary classroom teachers alone) continue into Monday across several departments including teachers, paraprofessionals, and secretaries.
- New data becomes available to us on Monday after weekend testing results are reported from the health department.

Monday will also be utilized as a day of testing opportunity for families:

- Glen Lake car line in the main parking lot area from 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM, open to Glen Lake students and symptomatic household members
- VFW Post 7731, 7475 East Duck Lake Road in Lake Leelanau from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, open to the public
- If experiencing any COVID-like symptoms, please be tested.

In addition, after-school extracurricular activities will be paused on Monday, as well as the start of the High School Girls Basketball season. After-school activities will resume when school is back in session on Tuesday.

Monday night's Board of Education meeting will be held as scheduled at 6:00 PM.

I cannot thank our school family enough for the support that has been expressed for making these very difficult decisions. I was truly hoping that Thursday and Friday would be enough to help minimize the number of students and staff out of the building. I am hopeful that Monday will allow us to gain new and better knowledge from the weekend, and that we can resume on Tuesday. Again, anything can change on any given day, but I will remain optimistic, based on the work of our team, that we will be at school on Tuesday to hear that bell ring to begin the day!

Take great care,

Mark Mattson

Mark Mattson
Interim Superintendent