



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Hancock Public School

Independent School District No. 768
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Tim Pahl
K-12 Principal

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Superintendent of Schools

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September 2, 2020

Dear Hancock Families,

As you may be aware we do have lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community. We understand that this may create unease in our community. We have been in contact with local public health officials and the Minnesota Department of Health. At this time the base learning model remains the same for the start of school on Tuesday, September 8th. We will be starting school in-person for all students. We will continue to work with families to address the individual needs of our families.

Until we have a safe and effective vaccine, we don't know what the rate of infection will be in our communities. But we can affect that rate by practicing proven prevention. Then we watch the rates of infection for our local communities, and those rates tell us how to deliver instruction while keeping our students and staff safe.

Please know we have taken action to clean and sanitize the facility and are working closely to monitor the situation. We are asking all members of our community to minimize the spread of illness by taking the following actions:

- Protect yourself and others by wearing a face covering; stay 6 feet away from people; washing your hands often with soap and water; covering your cough and sneeze; and avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands.
- If you are sick, stay home from school and other activities.
- Use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website on how to care for yourself at home; see What to Do If You Are Sick (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>).
- Please reference COVID-19 Decision Tree: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

Our teachers are our front line workers. Through their professional practice, they are the most impactful resource leading to student success. How can we not see that as essential? But again, science must drive the extent to which our teachers can safely teach face-to-face, or must practice via distance learning. We pledge to you that a safe environment is of paramount importance and we respectfully ask for the help of our staff and the wider community in realizing this critical mission.

This is a challenging time and I know many of you may be feeling stress or anxiety. We will get through this together as a community, and will be stronger when we emerge. I look forward to seeing all the students in the building again. Thank you in advance for your support, consideration, and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Paul J. Carlson, Superintendent, Hancock Public School