



Collinsville Community Unit School District 10

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Hello Kahok Nation, I'm superintendent Brad Skertich.

In recent days, we have seen our first downward trend in positive COVID-19 cases throughout our region, as well as the start of vaccinations for educators. Both are a welcome change to the consistent spike in cases we've seen since Thanksgiving, and the long-awaited arrival of a vaccine.

The district is actively working with the Madison County Health Department to gather data and assist in the vaccination of Group 1B, which includes school personnel, in the weeks ahead. We expect the Madison County Health Department to begin vaccinating large groups of school employees on February 13th - followed by the second required vaccination three to four weeks later. We anxiously awaited the development and approval of COVID vaccines and must now patiently wait while there have been delivery and mobilization delays. We are optimistic the process will improve, but since we always want to be transparent, we must recognize widespread immunity will not happen overnight.

We are eager to increase the number of days students attend class each week. However, keep in mind, three pieces of information will drive this decision: the health of our staff, the health of our students and a definitive time frame for vaccinating district employees. Until that time, the district will remain in a Hybrid/Blended Learning Setting to ensure consistency and prevent having to change between learning settings numerous times during the second semester.

The recent transition from Tier 3 mitigations to Tier 2 mitigations in our Region, provides the opportunity for extracurriculars to begin. Our Kahok and Trailblazer athletes in low and moderate risk sports will be practicing and preparing for competition in the coming weeks. This is a positive and will provide our students a sense of normalcy in the weeks ahead. I encourage everyone in our community to do their part to continue to lower the positivity rate in our Region, which will allow Higher Risk sports and activities the opportunity to compete in future as well.

On another note, during the past year, the district's Diversity and Equity Committee has met to analyze survey data, discuss strengths, areas of opportunity and next steps for the district as we strive to improve cultural awareness, combat racism and make improvements as a whole. Attached is a report by the Diversity and Equity Committee presented to the Board of Education on January 25th. The report lists the committee members and outlines goals for professional development, curriculum and programs. These goals will drive action steps taken by the committee, district and schools in the week's, months, and years ahead. Updates will be provided to the Board of Education in the summer, the same time frame updates are provided for the district's annual Short- and Long-Term Plan and Board of Education Goals.

Monday, February 1, marks the beginning of Black History Month. This year, the Black Student Union at CHS compiled information to share with all of our schools and the community. Their presentation highlights the contributions of notable African American women, inventors, and pioneers. It is a great resource as our district celebrates Black History Month and recognizes the contributions these important Americans made to our country and culture.

Please be safe, wear a mask, wash your hands, and social distance. Don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Skertich Ed.D.

Superintendent