

BOND COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2

1008 North Hena Street
Greenville, Illinois 62246

Phone: 618-664-0170
Fax: 618-664-5000

To all BCCU2 Families,

Happy Friday and Happy New Year!

It was great to see our students this week! We will not be reporting updated COVID numbers this week as there were very few news cases reported amongst students (since break) and none among staff! I do want to share some relevant information regarding the start of second semester and 3rd quarter which begins on January 25th. In the coming weeks, we will be determining our learning format for the second half of the school year. As always, we will consult with the Bond County Health Department and monitor local, regional, and state level metrics. As we have throughout this process, we will keep safety at the forefront of the decision making process.

At this time, we do not anticipate returning to a hybrid model of learning. We understand that some families still prefer an online (remote) only learning option. That option will remain available through the end of the year. If families want to change learning formats, they need to notify their child's school by **Friday, January 15th**. I would highly recommend that any changes in learning format be discussed with your child's teacher and school principal. I also want to reiterate that we feel the best chance for most students to be successful and acquire necessary skills they need is through in-person learning.

Although athletics at any level are not currently allowed, according to the IDPH, I want to share the indicators needed for our students to participate. As a community, our actions, in relation to COVID-19 mitigations, and how well we adhere to them, affects our children's opportunities to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Illinois remains in Tier 3 status until at least January 15. As a result, all sports remain on pause. There is no date when interscholastic competitions would be allowed to start. IESA/IHSA guidance states that if any region of the state meets the guidelines to move to Tier 2 mitigations, they may do so starting January 15. Please keep in mind that Tier 2 mitigations do not allow contests to be played. Medium risk sports may be allowed to practice but games would not be allowed. At this time, basketball is still a high risk sport and could not practice, even if a region moves to Tier 2. If a given region does not move to Tier 2 and remains in Tier 3, then the sports for the schools in those regions would remain paused.

For a region to move back to Tier 2 mitigations, the following must occur:

- less than 12 percent test positivity rate for three consecutive days
- greater than 20 percent available intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital bed availability
- declining COVID hospitalizations in 7 out of the last 10 days

You can monitor region metrics here: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

Finally, I want to share how our district has addressed the events that occurred at the Capitol in Washington D.C. on January 6th. In our schools, we encourage students to express themselves and

Wes Olson, Superintendent

Dena Petrolina, Business Manager

Emily Laesch, Supt./Board Secretary

Heather McCleary, Transportation/Unit

Jennifer Mitchell, Payroll & Benefits/Unit

Michele Wade, Spec. Ed/Unit

engage in critical thinking. However, it is imperative that we foster a learning environment that allows for individual expression and beliefs, without infringing on the rights of others to learn. More than ever, discussions of a political nature can bring about strong emotions. Teaching our students about civic duty and creating students who will become active citizens is at the core our mission as a public school. Being good citizens includes listening and respecting the viewpoint of others and supporting our democratic institutions. The events that occurred on January 6th make that mission more important than ever.

We need to make sure our students are given the opportunity to engage and think critically in our classrooms and at home. The events that occurred and ensuing images/news may be confusing and disturbing for students. We need to support them by showing empathy, love, and care to them. Keep in mind, over the last year alone, our students have experienced the following:

- Global Pandemic
- Racial Unrest
- Food Scarcity
- School Closures
- Isolation
- Violent Political Insurrection

They need the support of caring communities (school and home), more than ever. Together, we can accomplish this.

Sincerely,



Wes Olson, Superintendent of Schools