



TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 6, 2020

Dear Twinsburg Schools Family:

My apologies for the late correspondence this evening. Suffice it to say, it has been a very busy day at Central Office. Over the weekend, the following individuals tested positive for COVID-19:

- One (1) On-Campus 2nd grader;
- Two (2) On-Campus 10th graders;
- One (1) On-Campus/CVCC 11th grader; and
- One (1) certificated staff member who works with our intermediate school students.

If your son/daughter or a member of our staff was in close contact with the students or staff member who tested positive for COVID-19, meaning having contact for fifteen (15) or more minutes at a distance of less than six (6) feet, you would have already received another notice with additional information.

Thanks for continuing to encourage your children and each other to practice the safety protocols of six (6) feet social distance, wearing masks, and frequently sanitizing and/or washing hands with soap and water at all times.

For the parents of our athletes and students who participate in extra-curricular activities, you will recall that our District paused on these programs through this weekend. During the last Board Meeting, I shared with BOE members that we would continue to analyze our District's data and seek guidance from health officials from the Summit County Public Health Department so that we could recommend a safe return to winter sports and extra-curricular activities.

Since that last Board Meeting, our Athletic Director/Coordinator of K-12 Student Activities Brian Fantone, members of the Board and I have received correspondence from some parents, either asking for these programs to be immediately resumed or from others who would like the District to totally cancel these programs due to the ongoing pandemic and the "Purple" designation given to our County. As late as this afternoon, Mr. Fantone and I met virtually with a group of winter sports parents who desire for our athletic programs to immediately commence. As in all matters regarding COVID-19, there are many perspectives and each one is relevant and important. None of our decisions are made in a vacuum and none of the decisions are easily made. In the middle of every decision, however, must be the health and safety of our students, our staff members, and our families.

I do know, through our data, that the recent spread of COVID-19 has decreased at certain grade levels when compared to the month of November. Recall that the District had a significant uptick in COVID positive cases at the end of the fall sports season and that this



uptick was traced to congregate activities. Further, Health Commissioner Donna Skoda frequently advises Summit County school superintendents to “pick one” meaning either pick on-campus school or pick athletic programs. She does not advise allowing both.

This evening, I received word from health officials that the Summit County Public Health Department plans to release guidance in the coming week regarding athletic and extra-curricular programs. We look forward to this document as the guidance offered by our County health officials continues to be based in data and science.

In light of the guidance provided by our County health officials and in recognition of our District’s own data, our winter sports programs will proceed as follows:

Middle School Athletics

Continue to pause on all middle school winter sports until Tuesday, January 5th. At that time, allow winter sports practices to begin, per the plans approved by the Summit County Public Health Department. Permit games to begin on Tuesday, January 19th.

High School Athletics

Continue to pause on all high school winter sports until Winter Break begins on Saturday, December 19th. From Saturday, December 19th – Thursday, January 7th, allow winter sports practices to be held, per the plans approved by the Summit County Public Health Department. Permit games and meets to begin on Friday, January 8th.

Extra-Curricular Activities

All extra-curricular activities will continue to pause unless activities can be held virtually. Upon the second semester, it is anticipated that in-person extra-curricular activities will return, however, further details will be forthcoming.

We realize that our winter sports coaches and athletes and students who participate in our extra-curricular activities desire to be actively involved in these programs. Our coaches and advisors will continue to connect with students virtually. Further, we know that our parents desire to attend sporting events and other District-sponsored activities in support of their children. We also desire for the same things. We ask for everyone’s patience and understanding as our District continues to move forward as proactively and as safely as possible.

Sincerely,
Kathi Powers
Superintendent

