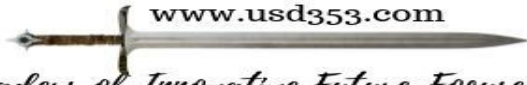


WELLINGTON School District

www.usd353.com



Leaders of Innovative Future-Focused Real World Learning



Dear USD 353 and Wellington Community,

As many of you are aware, COVID-19 cases continue a steady increase in our community. After reviewing the data and seeking guidance from the USD 353 medical panel, the recommendation will be for ALL schools to continue in the hybrid phase Nov. 16th-24th. We will re-evaluate and make another decision on Nov. 23rd for the week of Nov. 30th.

At this time, although we **do** have positive cases in our schools, none of our schools meet the criteria to be considered a cluster outbreak. We will continue to monitor the numbers closely and take situations on a case by case basis and work with each school as challenges arise. Please keep in mind that at any time, moving to remote learning for the entire district or an individual building could always be a possibility. We are feeling the impact of absences, however, our administrators, teachers and staff are doing a phenomenal job of providing quality education for our students under challenging circumstances. I know I have said this numerous times, but everyone's patience and flexibility is appreciated.

I want to try and clear up any confusion on how we are communicating COVID-19 cases in our district. As a reminder, new confirmed positive cases from the previous week are posted every Monday on our website. These are new **confirmed** positive cases. This doesn't take into account students who are out sick or quarantined. We are balancing being as transparent as possible with the rules and regulations regarding FERPA. Also, positive cases in schools are reported to the state, therefore, if any of our schools are deemed a cluster outbreak this information will be made public.

We will continue to work with our medical panel, and monitor the numbers as we work to reach our goal of welcoming students back into our classrooms for full, on-site learning everyday. In the meantime, we must do our part to slow the spread and keep our district and community safe.

Adam Hatfield
Superintendent, USD 353