

Prepare Each Student to Be Successful
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January 12, 2022

SPAPSD Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members,

As we prepare to return to in-person classes beginning Monday, January 17, I wanted to first and foremost thank you for your understanding, patience and perseverance. At this time, we are beginning to see a decrease in both new positive COVID cases as well as staff and students in quarantine. As these numbers drop, we feel confident in returning to in-person learning.

That said, we continue to see significant staffing shortages in transportation. These shortages have caused delayed and interrupted routes and threaten our ability to consistently hold in-person school. As we continue to recruit and train team members, we are also asking families to please consider self-transporting students if it is an option for your individual situation. Reducing the overall number of students on buses allows us to reduce the number of overall routes, relieving some of the pressure on current team members. **If your family is able and willing to self-transport, please [complete this form](#).** I also want to personally thank families who have been flexible with bus routes, we know these disruptions are difficult.

As we continue to address the challenges and successes of this school year, **please continue to have a backup plan for your student** in the event that the school schedule is altered (this may include early release, late start and/or e-learning days).

Reminders to keep our students, staff and schools healthy:

- **Do not come to school/work sick** ([two or more symptoms of COVID-19](#)).
- Review COVID protocols:
 - [Student Protocols | Symptomatic and Close Contact](#)
 - [Employee Protocols | Symptomatic and Close Contact](#)
- **Voluntary Test to Stay Initiatives:** Some of you have inquired about the District pursuing the Test to Stay Initiative (testing within our schools). This is being developed by the Department of Health Services (DHS) but is not yet implemented. They are also working to

secure availability for the required number of tests needed to implement the program. We may be pursuing this once we learn more from DHS & DPI and will continue to keep you updated as things progress.

- [Face-covering requirements](#) will be extended through the end of the Third Quarter, March 31, 2022. Face-covering requirements for the Fourth Quarter will be reviewed in mid-March and any changes will be communicated at that time.
- **All other [COVID-19 mitigation strategies](#) remain in place.**

Thank you for your continued flexibility, cooperation and support of your student.

Respectfully,



Craig Gerlach, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools
Stevens Point Area Public School District

*Yog xav tau kev pab txhais cov lus nyob hauv tsab email no, thov hu rau Shong Her ntawm
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*Si necesita ayuda traduciendo información que se encuentra en el correo electrónico, por favor,
contacte a Miledys Benavidez-Carrillo al correo mbeavid@pointschools.net o llame al
715-498-1976.*