

# GRANT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*"A Great Place to Grow and Learn"*

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To the Families, Students, and Staff of Grant Public Schools,

As all of you are aware, the past week has been a challenge for our entire GPS family. After not being impacted for almost the first month of school, we have had a sudden onset of Covid cases with some students and non-instructional staff members. As of the time of this communication, we have 4 staff and 7 students who have tested positive. All of the students are in either our Middle School or High School and our staff members are not in a school building. When we are made aware of a positive case, there is a chain of events that occur in every circumstance. This includes significant communication with the Health Department, contact tracing, notifications to families of close contacts, as well as notifications to families who may have had a child or staff member exposed at some level.

The results of this sudden onset include having just under 100 Middle School and High School students having to quarantine for 14 days per the Health Departments orders, as well as a few staff members that include at least one teacher. This does NOT mean that those people are sick, it is, however, the precautionary protocol that is mandated. As a result of this sudden and unfortunate development, difficult decisions have had to be made to help curb this sudden onset. There was a great deal of communication between the Health Department, our GPS Directors and Administrators, as well as our GPS Board of Education. These are not decisions that we take lightly or want to make without careful and thoughtful consideration. There are countless circumstances that come into play and every stakeholder has a genuine interest and concern to do what is right for our students and our entire school community. We looked at multiple scenarios and wanted to implement the best plan possible where students could still be served where feasible and we could also move forward with halting the spread of illness. The results of our plan for the next two weeks are as follows:

1. Grant High School and Grant Middle School will be shifting to Remote Learning only for 14 days, returning for in-person instruction on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. We were closed this past Friday so that will count as day one. Although we all know that there is no substitute for face to face instruction and being able to be in school, unfortunately this step will have to be taken to help stop the sudden and potential spread of the virus. Students will all still be expected to continue with all of their classes, they are prepared for this as all teaching staff have been working with our remote platform, Mavin, both in and out of the classroom. It is our intent to resume back in person on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. Our Primary Center and Elementary School have not had any reported cases or any quarantines up to this point. Per the Health Department's guidance, we will continue face to face instruction with those school buildings as we have been doing since school started. We want to do all we can to keep moving forward to serve our students. There is one change that went into effect for the entire State this past Friday that everyone needs to be aware of, however. Per Executive Order 2020-185, all students in Kindergarten and above are now required to wear a face covering in their classrooms and common areas. This is a change from what had been allowed up to this point. We have many face coverings available at school if a student needs one.
3. Unfortunately, for at least this next week, we will need to continue to operate without bussing. We understand that this is a challenge for many of our families. We hope to be back up and running very soon, that will be communicated as soon as we know more. If your student cannot be transported to

## Home of the Tigers

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school, they can work remotely or their respective school will be in touch with them regarding alternate plans.

4. Regarding extracurricular activities, there have been no reported cases with any of our Fall Varsity teams up to this point. There will be modifications made to programming. Until October 9<sup>th</sup>, only Varsity teams will be allowed to practice or compete. This will be monitored and revisited throughout the remainder of the Fall.
5. Regarding meals for remote students, our Food Service Department is working right now to determine the new numbers for weekly food pickups. Our day has been Tuesdays for remote learning families to pick up meals for the week outside of the Middle School. Depending on our new numbers there may be another day added to that. Please look for an email communication soon from our Food Service Department with details concerning that.
6. We ask that all families, students, and staff members please remember that if you are not feeling well, that you take a day and stay home to see if it was something else (allergies for example) or if it may be something more. This is crucial for us to move forward together and get back on track. We do understand that we will soon be entering into cold and flu season and that it may be impossible to tell exactly what someone may be inflicted with. We are expecting some guidance from the Health Department as that time approaches. We cannot mandate that people get tested, that is a family decision. We do ask, however, that if you or your child are experiencing any symptoms that you please do the right thing and stay home until you, or they, are feeling better. For now, and the foreseeable future, the days of waking up with a cough, sore throat, or a touch of a fever and taking some medicine to relieve the symptoms and coming into work or school are over. We have to all work together to protect ourselves, others, and our community.

Thank you to our entire community for your positive thoughts, good wishes, and support as we move through this time together. Grant and Newaygo County as a whole had been largely spared much of a hit throughout the summer in regards to having to grapple with the virus and its implications. We all knew that at some point it would become a reality for our us and we would have to deal with it in our school system. That time has arrived. We will continue to keep you updated as things change, which quite often they do many times each day. We care so much for our students and our staff, we will continue to work to do what is best. Thank you to everyone again, we are Grant Strong.

Sincerely,

Brett Zuver  
Superintendent  
Grant Public Schools

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