September 17, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was an exciting first full week back and a wonderful start to the school year! Our partnership with our district families is essential to sustaining our guiding principles throughout the 2021-22 school year. I wanted to share an important update and a reminder that aligns with our guiding principles.

OPCSD Guiding Principles:
★ The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority.
★ Value in-person learning - five days a week.
★ A return of our comprehensive programming.

Student Lunch:
The current requirement from the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) for social distancing during student lunch is 3 to 6 feet apart. The ECDOH may place students in quarantine if they were eating at a distance less than 6 feet apart for greater than 15 minutes, depending on vaccination status. In alignment with our Guiding Principles, we will ensure that all students are seated at least 6 feet apart during lunch, beginning on Monday, September 20th, to reduce the possibility of quarantine.

Return to School after a COVID-19-Like Illness:
As a reminder, the ECDOH requires that in order for students or staff to return to school following a COVID-19-like illness, regardless of vaccination status, one of the following criteria must be met:
  ○ A negative FDA-approved NAAT COVID-19 test result is provided to the school either by a parent/guardian or medical care provider. A NAAT test is a Nucleic acid amplification test, such as a polymerase chain reaction or PCR;
    ■ Please contact your primary care physician, local pharmacies, or visit the ECDOH website for testing locations www.erie.gov/covidtest
  ○ There have been at least 10 days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms;
  ○ A Health Care Provider provides a signed note reporting a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) and COVID-19 is not suspected. Such individuals may return to school according to the usual guidelines for such diagnosis.

I value our partnership in ensuring the success of all students and I hope you have an enjoyable weekend!

Sincerely,

Dave Lilleck
Superintendent of Schools