

Waverly School District #6

Waverly, Illinois

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Dustin Day, Superintendent

December 16, 2020

Dear Parents,

As I reflect on the past 9 months, many thoughts come to mind. I want to take a moment to share what I have seen over the past weeks and months here in our school district. I cannot begin to tell you the admiration and appreciation I have for the staff, community, and especially our students for their part in demonstrating their commitment to the school district in such a tumultuous time in our country. Throughout this journey, I have seen firsthand the dedication our staff, teachers, and students demonstrate daily in our schools. Is this the type of education we had foreseen for our children? Of course not. Did we want our children not to be able to participate in extra-curricular activities, interact with their peers, or not be able to experience school the way parents had experienced school when they were children? Absolutely not.

However, I cannot look back and see only negative, but see a unique opportunity for our children. What I did see is the resilience of a district coming together for one purpose and that is to educate students in the best possible way each and every day during unimaginable circumstances. I have always appreciated everything our staff has done for the last six years, but during this time, I have seen the staff take on new challenges, provide new strategies for instruction, and teach students in a way never thought possible. I have witnessed students of all ages grasping the technological advances and learning and problem solving while sitting in their homes speaking to a teacher on a computer. While this doesn't sound positive, I feel the last 9 months have demonstrated what Waverly is truly capable of accomplishing. Waverly has come together, parents have provided trust to the school, teachers have provided exciting new ways to educate, and students have taught us perseverance. Has everything been right in the eyes of everyone? Probably not and we cannot help that perception. What I can definitely say is our school district did not let COVID 19 define us. We saw this as an opportunity to change ourselves, perceptions, and values on what is most important.

As we look forward into the future, we have decided to be fully remote January 5th-8th and will resume our four days of in-person instruction on January 11th, 2021. Students with IEPs may still utilize in person learning during 1/5-1/8. Teachers will be present at the school during this week. You are probably asking why this change would be necessary at this time. The simple answer is as we have documented our quarantines of students, family members, and positive cases this last semester, the district concluded there was a significant increase right after Thanksgiving. The obvious answer is families came together and celebrated. We expect families to do the same for Holiday Break. Therefore, it only makes sense to allow additional time for students to stay home

after this break to minimize the risk of exposing other students. Beginning January 11th, our district will continue the four days a week (Monday-Thursday) of instruction and Fridays being remote learning. It is our expectation that students will switch to five days a week of in-person learning in the near future and more students will utilize this option to better prepare them for returning full time next school year.

Again, I want to thank the families for their support, the staff for their dedication, and the students for their commitment during this time. It has not been easy the last nine months, but life is not always easy. Sometimes, it takes a difficult time to show true resolve and that is exactly what Waverly has demonstrated.

Have a fantastic Holiday Break.

Sincerely yours,

Dustin W. Day, Ed. S
Superintendent of Schools
Waverly CUSD #6