

School Update

August 19, 2021

*From the Desk of
Dr. Mary Henderson*



[2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)

Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Next SMART Day: Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Illinois Department of Public Health [Trend Data](#)

DuPage County Health Department [Data Dashboard](#)



Dear Roselle D12 Families,

Today was a wonderful day of celebrating all of our ravens and springers being back in the buildings! The first day is always a mix of excitement and nerves, and yesterday was no different, though I think the kindergarten tears were the parents and not the kids. Our focus this week is helping all students acclimate to new routines, new classrooms, new teachers, and new classmates. Learning can't begin until our students feel like part of a community, and that is our work right now.

If you are at Spring Hills, you will see positive messages such as the one pictured above all around the school. I love how our children see the positive in the world and are eager to to make others feel better!

COVID-19 Metrics and Information

As you have likely heard on the news, our numbers are continuing to increase, and during my meeting with the county health department on Monday, the number of pediatric cases is rapidly increasing. At this time, ninety-eight percent of cases are among non-vaccinated individuals.

Important Note: The DuPage County Health Department has not agreed to all of the recommendations on testing and quarantine that the Illinois Department of Public Health has put forward. We are working to determine whose directives we are bound to follow and what impact those will be on our D12 practices. We will share information as quickly as we can.

This section of my newsletter will also contain information on the total cases we have in the district. At this time we do not have any.

Our communication to families if there is a positive case is as follows:

1. Parents will receive a phone call from school staff if their child is identified as a close contact. If there is a need to quarantine, details on how long and process will be given. If there is not a need to quarantine, information will be provided so that parents can watch more closely for any potential symptoms.
2. Families of the impacted classroom(s) or bus will receive communication from me. It will indicate if anyone was required to quarantine.
3. Families in the school will receive communication that there is a positive case in the school. No other information will be provided.

Board of Education Meeting

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24 at the Roselle Village Hall beginning at 7 p.m. You do not need to sign up to attend ahead of time, but please note that **masks will be required for all attendees**.

There will be a public hearing on our e-learning plan. This is a state requirement. Our e-learning plan is related to the use of remote e-learning days in place of emergency days (snow or other types of emergencies). Our plan will be aligned to our practice last year: If we anticipate the potential for bad weather and can ensure that kids have the materials they would need, we would use an e-learning day. If it is an unforeseen emergency day, we will use a traditional snow day.

Also on the agenda is a report on the opening of school, summer professional learning and the presentation of the 2021-22 budget.

The meeting will be livestreamed via our YouTube channel with a link emailed to families and posted on our Facebook page approximately 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

New Requirements for Technology Security and Privacy

As of July 1, districts are required to implement more structures and protections related to student privacy and protection of student data, specifically related to any third-party programs or apps we are using. You will see that programs like Class Dojo, Blooms, etc. are no longer used by our staff. This is due to the companies' unwillingness or inability to comply with new laws regarding the privacy and protection of student data.

We will be presenting on this important topic at our September Board of Education meeting (September 21) and would encourage families to watch.

Thank you!

I want to thank the many families who have reached out to share support and kindness to our staff the last week. Your words, prayers, and gestures have meant a great deal to all of us. During our opening Institute Day on Monday, I shared social media posts and emails with the staff, and it helped set just the right tone. Our staff doesn't separate ourselves by our roles in the district. We are a united group who have chosen careers that allow us to serve the students and families in our district, and this week, as exhausting as it always is, is also one of our favorites as we get to be back with our kids.

I hope that your first week has been as positive as ours has been. Thank you for sharing your children with us, and I look forward to seeing all of the great things taking place in our schools!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent

