



Good morning!

The weekends seem to go so fast! As promised, overall today's update is longer because it includes the usual COVID case update from the weekend notifications and more information about school delays and closures, and specifically Flexible Instruction Days. This email has the shortened, abbreviated version. More information about weather-related decisions, Remote Learning Days, Flexible Instruction Days is included in the attached, lengthy letter. First, a short note about the notifications we received over the weekend...

### **COVID Case Count Updates**

Over the weekend, we received notifications of two new positive cases in the district as follows:

- A student at Pleasant Gap Elementary School tested positive for COVID. The student was in school while infectious. But, there were no students identified as close contacts for this positive case.
- A student at the Middle School tested positive for COVID. The student was in school while infectious. As of late last night, the middle school principals were still trying to identify close contacts and notify parents of those students. It is possible that they may need to notify some parents this morning.

### **Flexible Instruction Days**

I talked a little about Flexible Instruction Days and Remote Learning Days in my email on Nov. 1, 2021. Last year, I wrote a lengthy letter that explained how weather-related decisions are made, the implications of those decisions, described what Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs) are, and compared Remote Learning Days and Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs). That same letter and the accompanying FAQ chart are attached in their entirety to this email. I know it's really long, but there is a lot of

information within that letter that could be helpful for parents who would like more explanation.

In short, for the time being, if the weather gets bad and we have to close our schools, we will most likely have either a good old-fashioned snow day (no teaching or learning that day) or a Flexible Instruction Day (FID). We can take up to 5 FIDs this school year. If we have a FID, the students should log on to their Google Classroom to get information and assignments from their teachers. The day will be “asynchronous” which means that there won’t be any “live” teaching/learning. Students can log on any time to complete the work. And, if they can’t log on at home during a FID, they can make it up when we get back to school.

The key will be to listen closely to the announcement when it's made to close schools and to know what type of day it will be. As in the past, we will send information for school delays and closures via phone call and email (and maybe texts). The information is also sent to local TV channels and local radio stations and posted on the district website.

### **Next Updates**

I don’t know if we will receive any word from the PA Supreme Court which will hear oral arguments regarding the mask mandate on Wednesday, but if we do, I will send the information to you, too. Barring any breaking news, I’ll send my next update letter/email on Friday.

As always, thank you so very much for your continued support, patience and understanding through these very challenging times. I hope you have a marvelous Monday and a great week ahead!

Tammie Burnaford

Superintendent

Bellefonte Area School District

P.S. I've been fairly lucky with attachments opening in our Blackboard system this year. But, if for some reason, the attached documents will not open, I will re-send.