



Good afternoon!

Since Monday, we received notification of 0 new covid cases in the district (woohoo!). We haven't gotten any notifications of new cases in the district for more than a week, and only a few in the prior week. Obviously, the number of new cases are plummeting in the district, as well as in the local zip codes and the state. I continue to track the numbers for Centre County and our 2 main zip codes (16823 and 16841). I think that the CDC will designate Centre County as having a "low" community rate in the next release on the CDC website. As mentioned in previous emails, we are slowly getting back to "normal" in our schools.

We are reaching the 2 year anniversary for covid in our schools. When I think back to March 13, 2020, I could have never dreamed what the next week, let alone the next 2 years, would look like. On a personal level, at that time, I was the assistant superintendent in the district and was beginning to plan my retirement. Then, like I've learned so well in the past 2 years, life changed at a moment's notice. March 13, 2020 is one of those days that is burned in my memory. I remember exactly where I was when I got the call around 3:00 that all PA schools were closing. It's been a long 2 years, but here we are today. We are finally emerging from this pandemic (I hope), we've learned to hold our loved ones a bit closer, and we still have outstanding and awesome students, staff and families that we get to work with every day. More than anything, I've learned to count my blessings even more in the last 2 years.

Student Social, Emotional and Behavior Concerns Continued

After my email on Monday, I had a few parents reach out to me to ask if there are any available resources for parents, particularly for cell phones, social media, etc. Coincidentally, Arlin Roth, our Director of Instructional Technology, sent the following information to our staff today:

SmartSocial is offering a free online presentation entitled [Free Parent, Teacher & Counselor Forum: 25+ Dangers On TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Fortnite, Netflix,](#)

[YouTube & More](#) tonight and again on April 14. Click the link above for more information and registration details.

You will learn about:

- *TikTok's privacy issues and how it impacts your family*
- *Snapchat features that help predators locate your student*
- *Instagram's hidden accounts some students use*
- *How Fortnite can cause anger and anxiety in students*
- *Common Netflix addiction issues with students*
- *YouTube screen time issues and how to limit screen time*

Additional resources are available on the Parents section of the BASD website on the [Social Media and Online Safety](#) page.

Again, by no means am I trying to tell parents how to parent or suggest any different rules for cell phones. I'm simply sharing this information for parents who may be looking for some additional resources. And, quite honestly, I don't know if the free webinar includes helpful information or not. I just came across the announcement and thought I'd share it with you. There are additional resources for parents on the district website and that link is provided, as well.

Due to the falling positive covid case counts and our having only a few new covid case notifications in our schools, at most each week, I am going to return to my weekly updates unless, of course, other breaking news occurs. So, barring any breaking news, I'll send my next update on Friday next week. As always, thank you so very much for your continued support, patience and understanding through these past 2 years. It's been challenging, but I wouldn't have wanted to share this journey with any other awesome students, staff, parents and community. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Tammie Burnaford
Superintendent
Bellefonte Area School District