



October 28, 2020

Greetings,

As open communication is so important, I just wanted to take a brief moment to bring all of you up to speed on where things stand throughout Pacelli Catholic Schools at this time.

Unfortunately, we have had more than our fair share of positive Covid cases, particularly among our staff. I am heartened in knowing that we have had very few students test positive at this point in time and we all need to work together to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Some of our schools have had minimal cases, but I am sure many of you know that we did close Pacelli Catholic Elementary School-St. Stephen last week and this week. At the time the decision was made, we had only two positive cases, which has increased over the past week, particularly among staff. As we reopen the school and bring students back, we will look to do so gradually, by class, pending staff availability for in-person instruction and fulfillment of quarantine and isolation expectations. We are thankful that no one has been severely ill to date.

Systemwide, we will continue to prioritize in-person instruction five days a week, sending classes to remote instruction, if needed, based on staffing or positive cases. Our goal remains to try to be in person for instruction as much as possible, but we will not pursue that if we feel it is not in the best interest and safety of our staff and students.

We ask that you please help us, especially in these times of record-breaking positive numbers throughout our state and community, by doing what you can outside of school to limit the exposure of you and your children. If you have any concerns about someone in your family possibly being exposed, please stay home. Even I have spent some time working remotely due to possible close contacts, taking extra precautions when I'm not feeling 100%. I, too, have gone in for Covid tests, remaining home while I await my results. We all have to do our part to stop the spread. I hope you will join me in taking the same precautions.

If your student is eLearning for any reason or length of time, we encourage you to take advantage of the free breakfasts and lunches that we are able to provide, regardless of your household income. Through the federal government, this program is open to anyone in your household 18 and under, including kids not in school yet. We are working on a plan to be able to provide a delivery option as well, depending on the volume of interest and location of students. Your utilization of this program will not only provide nutritious food for your children, but allow us to keep our food program up and running and our staff

employed. [Here is a survey](#) that we ask you to fill out to assist us in planning your potential food needs if your child is learning remotely.

The public health department is overwhelmed right now and it is incumbent upon all of us to internally help identify if we are a close contact and to take appropriate action. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) does recommend (not require), particularly with children in a school setting, that we are even more cautious if a student or teacher is a close contact of a close contact, that the individual may want to stay home.

If anyone in your family has ANY symptoms we highly recommend getting tested and keeping everyone at home if at all possible. We are hearing that some of the quickest test results are coming out of Marshfield Clinic, but the National Guard is also doing free testing at the ADRC building on Mondays. It is a simple drive through test that takes minutes to complete. We empathize that each family situation is different and know that you all are doing your best.

Additionally, in an effort to provide the additional support our staff need to help students both in person and remote, we are looking for a couple of people who may be willing to volunteer in a larger role. This would be for 8-15 hours a week, working exclusively with one class and no other interaction within the school. You would be helping the teacher with whatever they need at the time, which could include watching the in-person students while she/he is helping an eLearning student, correcting papers, reading a book to kids, etc. If you think this is something that you might be interested in, please contact the principal in your building to pursue further.

Reminder that students will not be in person on October 30, November 13 and 16, and the week of Thanksgiving, November 23-27. In December, we will not be in person December 11 and Christmas break is December 24-31.

We continue to work hard to provide a quality education both remote and in person. We hear your appreciation for us being in person 5 days a week whenever we are able to do so, but keeping us at that level requires all of us being extremely conscientious. Every building in our system has had positive cases so none of us are immune. But with all of us working together, we will get through this school year as good as can be expected.

#PacelliPride

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Weber".

Cindy Weber
President