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September 25, 2020

Greetings, Whitefish Bay School Community:

As we complete our first few weeks of learning in the blended model with a virtual option, we appreciate the cooperation of students, families, and staff. For those who have started the year in-person, we have been delighted to see you back on campus. For those who are learning virtually in the first quarter, we have been happy to engage with you on-screen. Thank you to every teacher, staff member, and administrator who is meeting the challenges of the blended model, and for your ongoing dedication to students and their learning.

**Information from the North Shore Health Department indicates that the COVID-19 burden in the community is trending significantly higher this week.** The higher number of cases in the community increases the risk of introducing viral transmission into the schools. It is more important than ever for all community members to practice **the highest levels of risk mitigation.**

Please do your part make sure that you and your family members consistently continue to do the following:

- Maintain and/or increase consistent mask wearing
- Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet in all activities, including outdoor activities, especially those involving non-household contacts or school contacts who are not part of your child's cohort
- Continue to wash and/or sanitize hands regularly
- Perform daily [health screenings](#) and follow the established protocols

There have been a limited number of COVID-19 cases among students in the District, but contact tracing, quarantine, and cleaning protocols have been successful, and there has been no indication of community spread within our school buildings. We continue to assess and refine the protocols for student and staff safety. We aim for the highest standards of mask-wearing, hand hygiene, and physical distancing. We have added additional custodial personnel to ensure that high-touch areas including restrooms are cleaned throughout each school day, and we continue to provide additional cleaning on Wednesdays between our AA and BB cohorts.

The District is providing weekly updates on the number of active school cases and quarantines on our [website](#). We will soon include a series of metrics that monitor COVID-19 trends to inform ongoing decisions. The website also has an [FAQ](#) prepared by the Whitefish Bay Health Advisory Committee that details best mitigation practices and other important information about the virus. You can learn more about the North Shore Health Department numbers and guidance by clicking [here](#).

The District continues to value in-person learning while promoting health and safety, but the participation of the whole community is essential. We must all consistently exercise the recommended mitigation practices to sustain learning in schools.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Thomsen".

**Dr. John W. Thomsen**  
District Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Saltzstein".

**Sandy Saltzstein**  
School Board President