

WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Parents and Students of Win-E-Mac School:

Our School Staff, Leadership team, Administration and School Board members have met every week since July to make good re-opening plans for students and staff. We care, and our main goal is to keep students and staff safe. We will do everything possible to achieve this goal. The school board met in a workshop session Thursday morning to discuss updates, as well as to share some hesitations with the OWL, learning through the Hybrid and Distance learning models and other items. The school board and staff would like to take a cautious approach to bringing kids back to the building and would like us to continue to monitor the situation. The School Board did agree that our best option for school reopening is to begin with all elementary in-school and a hybrid option for the high school and continue monitoring several factors in making the final decision. We are creating plans to work on this model with group and classroom activity so we can isolate a positive case when detected, and the whole learning environment does not have to shut down. I will be bringing this model for approval at our next board meeting. We have been working and will continue to work closely with Polk County Health, and our numbers are increasing, so we believe we can prepare for this model and be able to change to all-in-school, hybrid, or virtual learning quickly if needed. Once a decision is made, the specifics of the model will be shared.

If a bus driver, teacher, custodian, or cook must be out because of the virus, this will upset the learning process in school. Our children are tough, but if the virus spreads to a home from another location it could mean two weeks or more of your time away from work and family, and this is considered in the equation. I know parents have seen other school's decisions to have all students in school as they may have separate buildings to isolate individual cases, and it may not affect the other school. No matter what model we employ, we will work to fit your students needs in our school.

Our school has set up temperature checks as children enter the bus and when they enter the school building at a designated door. We will have a completed plan and process ready by Thursday next week to post for parents. Please be patient but begin planning for this model.

Win-E-Mac staff will continue to work on the Win-E-Mac Education plan with regards to in person, hybrid, or virtual learning. The plan is set to be completed next week with a formal recommendation of In Person Elementary and Hybrid High School. Parents can also elect for virtual learning for their children or call to discuss other options.

Masking. The Governor has made all MN schools follow the mandate of masks. We have invested in a variety of options of masking and shields for students to protect each other and staff. We are planning break times and how we can work through different models of masking and shields to help children maintain safety throughout the day.

Polk County Health has been and will be involved with all schools in the county with guidance and making recommendations to the schools depending on the case numbers and virus spread. They will not give anyone private data protecting individuals who have tested positive within the county.

**** The behaviors of the community will determine the model of operations for our school, so we ask everyone to be protective and be safe.**

Website of Owl technology: <https://www.owl labs.com/>

Randy Bruer, Superintendent

