



*Morley Stanwood Community Schools*  
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August 24, 2021

Morley Stanwood Family,

I cannot fully explain how exciting late August becomes as the time gets closer and closer to the start of school. That may sound a bit silly, but the return of students to the building is the best part of my job; the noise, the laughter, the talking and the excitement. Admittedly, we're all pretty excited to see them go home for the summer, but by mid to late July it's very quiet, and frankly a bit boring here at school. Please don't take that as there isn't work to be done during the summer months because there is. We need every day and minute we can find to wrap up one school year and prepare for the next one. Without a doubt, as the last few weeks and days of August tick away we begin to question whether we will be ready or not. I will admit this year may have been a bit worse than normal.

About a month ago I made a unilateral decision that, even in the midst of all the construction and the unknowns that go with such a large project, we would open school on time. We came up with alternate plans, alternate classrooms, alternate routes in, out, and through the school. I am very happy to announce to all of you that school will open on time, and that all those well intentioned plans can be set aside. Our staff will be in their classes by the end of the first week if not sooner. My hats off to the contractors, various construction workers, custodial staff, and everyone else who had a hand in getting things finished. I must say it is a great relief. June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, the construction starts again.

Morley Stanwood Schools are opening on time and face to face. That being said there are a number of items I need to make you all aware of regarding the Coronavirus and the 21-22 school year. First of all, the MS Board of Education has made it a parent/family choice as to whether or not your child/student will wear a face mask. It is the recommendation from the CDC and the Health Department that all students and employees wear one. Note: everyone, students and employees alike, must wear a mask while riding the school bus; to and from school, and to and from sporting events.

Masks aside, I also need to inform you of how contact tracing, quarantining and symptomatic students will be handled this year; at least to start with. Please keep in mind, as I've stated so many times in the past this is subject to change.

If your student is "exposed" to a COVID positive person, and they are not wearing a mask, you will have a couple choices to make.

1. If symptom free your student may return to school if:
  - a. They properly wear a mask on the bus and during the school day for the 10 to 14-day quarantine period.
    - i. Should they refuse to wear their mask they will be sent home to finish their quarantine.
  - b. They must have their temperature taken each morning upon arrival in the school office
  - c. If symptoms begin your student will be required to isolate at home from 10 to 14 days; according to CDC regulations.
2. After 3 to 5 days if you choose to get a COVID test, and the results are negative, your student may remove their mask. This guideline is subject to CDC policy.
3. If your student is wearing a mask at the time of their exposure, and has no symptoms, they will not need to quarantine, and obviously will continue to wear their mask at school.
4. Vaccinated students who are exposed need not quarantine. Parents are to monitor for symptoms for 10 to 14 days.

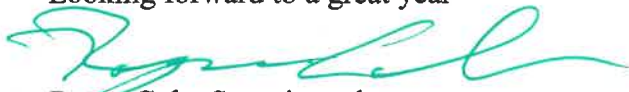
If your child develops any of the following symptoms at school or at home, your student will need to remain at home for a full 2 days (48 hours) after the onset of the symptoms, and be symptom free for at least 24 hours before they return to school.

- Fever, sore throat, uncontrolled coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea
- Here's an example
  - Student goes home from school at 11:00am with a sore throat on Monday. They feel better by noon Tuesday. They can return Thursday.
  - Student wakes up Sunday morning with a fever. Parent provides fever reducing medication and by bed time the student has a normal temperature. The student needs to remain home for 2 days (48 hours) with a normal temperature; without the fever reducing medication. Student may return to school Wednesday.

I am confident we all share the same desire, to have our students return to school in as normal of a setting as possible. We are closer than we were last year in many respects, but we're not there yet. Still, I am pleased with the progress we've made. In order to continue to move forward we will all need to work together and follow the directions laid out above.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Morley Stanwood Community Schools and our students.

Looking forward to a great year



Roger Cole, Superintendent