

## LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

December 2020

**Elementary:** Let's start with a huge shout out to our students, families and staff. They have all hit the ground running as we shifted into distance learning. Classrooms start the day live with a morning meeting and then move in and out of live and recorded sessions throughout the day. We are extremely grateful to our families for their day to day support. It has been fun to see everyone's sweet faces on the screen, mask free! We do have activity in the building with Kids Co and some special education programming. Our support staff is key to our success, they are meeting daily with small groups of students to pre teach, reteach and complete work as needed. This support is done in Zoom meetings and face to face in the building. We are proud of the job everyone is doing but can't wait to get back in the building after winter break. Show your WILDCAT PRIDE and wear your mask! Happy Holidays.

### **Middle School:**

It has been a great start to distance learning and new learning for teachers, students and families continues daily. We are succeeding in distance learning because we continue to set students up to succeed with clear expectations, caring relationships, flexible support, staff collaboration, and accountability. Although distance learning is not the preferred method of delivery or the best for middle level learners, the WMS staff is working really hard to make the best of it.

At the end of each grading period, students are recognized for their academic efforts in the classroom. Quarter honor rolls for all Waconia Middle School students, grades 6-8, are based upon a 4.00 GPA. Honor rolls are published each quarter, with the names of students earning a 3.000 or higher GPA for that grading period (Honor II) and the names of those students earning a 3.665 or higher GPA for that grading period (Honor I). After working out some of the electronic kinks in calculating students' grade point averages for the first quarter grading period, we have now posted the honor roll lists on our website and are linked below.

[Honor Roll 1](#)

[Honor Roll 2](#)

Hour of Code 2020! During the week of December 7-13, Connect advisory classes explored the brand new Code.org content focused on [Artificial Intelligence](#). Students learned about AI and Machine Learning in a module called [AI for Oceans](#). Students were also encouraged to keep programming and coding for an hour or more during their Connect classes and WIN Time. Parents and siblings are welcome to join the fun! There are activities for all ages and ability levels at <https://hourofcode.com/us/learn>.

Sixth-grade students spent November reading *The Broken Blade* by William Durbin in Language Arts. As a culminating activity, the author was able to join the sixth grade for a couple of hours and give a presentation via Zoom. Students got to hear about the writing process, how Durbin gets his ideas, where the real-life information came from for *The Broken Blade*, and all about his other books. There were also many opportunities for students to ask their questions. Students were very engaged and it was a great way to end the novel unit while making a connection to Minnesota, Social Studies, and a real-life author! If you'd like to learn more about Durbin or order any of his books, check out <https://williamdurbin.com/>.

### **High School:**

We are nearing the completion of our second week of distance learning. While this is not our preferred learning model, our teachers have done a great job of jumping into the move to full-distance learning with a focus on providing more direct interaction with students and building connections. While we're still early in the process, things have gone well and reports from students and parents have been largely positive.

With the building being so quiet, our custodial staff has used the time to finish some repairs, do more deep cleaning, and paint some areas. The building looks great; all that seems to be missing is students and staff.

As the calendar year comes to a close, we'd like to recognize the efforts of our students and staff. These have been truly challenging times and they've shown incredible amounts of resolve, resilience and flexibility. We're looking forward to a fresh start in 2021.

**Activities:** [www.waconiaathletics.com](http://www.waconiaathletics.com)

### **Community Ed:**

While a lot of Community Education programs and activities are on hold during this time. Our Early Childhood and Kids' Company programs are still going strong. Our Early Childhood classes are in Distance Learning as well. The staff have been doing a great job still connecting with the children and families.

Our Kids' Company program is currently serving 109 children during Distance Learning. Of those 109 children, 67 of them come from families of essential workers. We are requiring that both parents be essential workers in order to come for free during the school day. Our Kids' Company staff continue to step during this difficult time and have been doing a great job caring for the kids in our community.

### **Human Resources:**

The School District's Insurance Advisory Committee reviewed summary medical claims data during its December meeting and received some positive news. Overall medical claims are

running lower than during the same time period last year. The School District will advertise for medical insurance proposals later this month with initial proposals due in January and final proposals provided in February. The Committee meets regularly during the school year to collaboratively work together to ensure the district's insurance benefits meet the diverse needs of all ISD 110 employees.

Planning has begun for our 2020-2021 teacher staffing. Superintendent Devine, our principals and directors will come together in February to discuss student enrollment estimates for the new school year and any upcoming teacher retirements and/or resignations. We will work together to develop a list of any expected openings to ensure that we can begin the recruitment process as early as possible. As in past years, job openings for any available teaching positions will be posted beginning in March with the majority of those filled during the months of April and May.

### **Student Services:**

Distance learning is in full swing with the majority of the students with IEPs receiving their services in a virtual platform. Special education teachers and ESPs are providing services and support throughout the school day. Over 100 students with IEPs are participating in some form of in-person/on-site services. Some of the students are participating a few days per week on-site, while other students are participating a few hours per week on-site.

### **Superintendent:**

#### **Continued Success at ONE10**

As we journey through week two of full time Distance Learning at ONE10 I want to acknowledge the staff for the continuous high quality work in delivering an engaging and impactful learning experience for our students. Their commitment to building and maintaining great relationships with our students and motivating them to be engaged in this challenging learning environment is commendable. We continue to find ways to help the struggling students and look for signs of disengagement so that we can provide the support needed. I am so thankful for how the ONE10 staff puts students first and their dedication to ensure we provide the best education environment possible for them. As staff continues their great work we hope they find joy in these challenging times and reach out if you need support in any way.

The ONE10 staff is the BEST!!

#### **Parent Survey Seeking Feedback**

We are seeking feedback from parents about our current Distance Learning model of instruction and we are also asking for feedback about the In-person and Hybrid model that we had this fall. The survey link was emailed out to parents on 12/11/20 and responses can be submitted through 12/22/20. [Link](#). It is our desire to deliver the best experience possible for our students no matter what type of learning model we are in, and parent feedback is very important for us to make any necessary improvements.

#### **Monitoring Data to Determine Return to In-Person/Hybrid**

We have a target date of January 19th for returning to the learning model we started the school year with. We know this is dependent on our Covid-19 numbers. We will continue to monitor the trends closely. As long as it is safe to do so, we know that in-person instruction is our preferred model of instruction. The behaviors of the community will determine the direction of Covid-19 cases. The latest trend is downward but that can change at any time. Currently we are still way above the 50 number that is used for moving back to a start of the year scenario. The next four weeks will determine if we can make our target date come true. Hopefully all do their best to help bring the Covid-19 numbers down to make our return happen.

Resources that are used for decisions:

- [Carver County Covid-19 Dashboard](#)
- [MDE State Covid-19 Data](#)
- [Unofficial Current Covid-19 Trends by county or school district](#)
- [MDE Covid-19 Updates and Resources](#)

### **The Offering of Activities**

There continues to be a debate across the state as to what is best for offering activities during a pandemic. The current direction from the state requires schools that must be in Distance Learning (DL) due to the Covid-19 numbers to place activities on pause until academics are not in DL. [See link](#). Many schools are challenging this requirement. It places schools with a tough decision. As much as we want to give our students the activities experiences, we also know we want to have in-person student instruction. If activities are allowed, are we placing activities as a higher priority than academics? Does having students gather for activities cause for more Covid-19 outbreaks? We can teach virtually, but we are not able to practice virtually. Is the social and emotional concerns of our activity students impacting them in a profound negative way? Lots of questions and concerns to consider. We will be watching to see if the state makes a ruling on what we are allowed to do and then our school district will need to determine our course of action. We will communicate what this means for ONE10 when we know more. As of today there are three target dates to consider; the MSHSL potential return date-12/21/20, the ONE10 initial return date-1/4/21, the potential end of DL date 1/19/21. We know this could change but for now, unless we are given approval from the state, our current plan is to follow the state requirements....while in DL activities are on a pause. Just like our academic model, this is not what we want for our students but it is what is required of us during this pandemic. More information to come as we have it.

### **The ONE10 Cultural Competence Committee and the WEA Social Justice group joins passion for Inclusion for ALL Students**

Last week a small group of passionate teachers met with the ONE10 Cultural Competence Committee to discuss ways to join forces to make an impact on how we address the topics of equity, social justice, race and inclusion for all our students at ONE10. We talked about strategies to support our curriculum development and instruction to be more inclusive. We are also looking at establishing equity leadership teams at each building level by next fall that can be a resource to staff that have questions and challenges as they find ways to be more

inclusive. The design team will research training opportunities and seek staff that wish to be on equity teams to support this effort and their colleagues. This is exciting work for ONE10 and it is great to see the passion of staff that wish to help with these positive changes for students.

WE Are ONE10!

ONE10 Cultural Competence Committee Information:

[History of ONE10's Cultural Competency Work](#)

[Cultural Competence Resources Link 1](#)

[Cultural Competence Resources Link 2](#)

### **Tis the Season**

As we lead up to the holiday season, We hope you are doing well during these unprecedented times. We are also mindful to watch for students that might be hurting. We know when we are on campus, we create a festive atmosphere of celebrating joy and I imagine some staff will find ways to bring the holiday season joy to students virtually. We are reminding staff to create an environment for ALL students and to look for students that may not see joy in this season. "Tis the Season" for some, means pointing out what they don't have or get to experience. I am confident that our staff will help all at ONE10 have the best experience they can during the holiday season. Thanks!

### **Bringing Joy**

If you have not seen this. Here is something fun to view. A local author and a ONE10 employee, MikeTibbetts, wrote a fantastic book about getting through this pandemic together. Thanks Mike!! Enjoy...[Link to Mike Tibbetts book reading](#)

**We are SoThankful for all that continue to make  
ONE10 a Great Place for Kids!!  
WE Are ONE10!!**