

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

March 2021

Elementary: At the elementary level we have been back in-person for six weeks and are hopeful we will continue in this model for the remainder of the year. The students have continued to be engaged, determined and show their grit! The fifth graders had a great time on their skiing field trip to Hyland Hills this past week. All students also had the opportunity to share their kindness and appreciation for others during valentine celebrations within their classrooms. Teachers have recently completed all winter assessments and are utilizing this data to ensure all students continue to learn and grow. During the week of February 22nd the elementary PTO's partnered together to provide coffee and donuts to all of the employees of Koch Bus company. We are so thankful for all of our bus drivers and their dedication and kindness they show to our ISD110 learners.

We take back what we said about the great temps in January. We did have a little payback in February with some indoor days. :)

Middle School:

WMS is at the mid-point of the third quarter and plans to fully return after break are underway. We have a design team working together to identify protocols to ensure maximum safety for students and staff. Thursday night we hosted virtual parent-teacher conferences and have another night of conferences again Monday evening. Although many miss the irreplaceable opportunity to connect in-person, we have definitely identified changes we will look to continue. One example is the use of Pick-a-Time to increase time efficiency of scheduling for both teachers and parents. The opportunity to meet virtually has also saved the travel and allowed parents and guardians to jump in from any location. A big thanks to the WMS PTO for providing a teacher meal from Subway on Thursday night. Planning is in full swing for Spring MCA tests in Math 6-8, Reading 6-8 and Science 8.

On Friday, we honored our February WMS Teacher of the Month, 6th-grade Math teacher, Mrs. Bakken. Mrs. Bakken was nominated by sixth-grade students Maddie Hartmann and Andie Tiller. They wrote about her "amazing" talents as a teacher and how she makes sure everyone stays safe with Covid protocols. They also stated she is a fun and exciting teacher that provides opportunities to listen to music, make learning fun with games, and do fun things outside. Lastly, they shared how amazing she was during distance learning. "Mrs. Bakken really took it into her own hands to make sure we felt like we were back at school." Congratulations to Mrs. Bakken, the WMS February Teacher of the Month and thank you to

Maddie and Andie for submitting a well written and detailed nomination letter. Both Mrs. Bakken and the students received treats including Laketown chocolates and Target gift cards as tokens of appreciation from the WMS PTO.

The WMS PTO continues to recognize the essential groups at WMS that go above and beyond to make WMS such a great school. The February Above and Beyond Group is the WMS Media and Technology Staff. The award states, "On behalf of the parents, students, and staff, THANK YOU for going above and beyond to ensure that our students have a safe and healthy environment to come to every day. We couldn't do any of this without you. "

Presented to: Mrs. Amott- Media Assistant, Mrs. Bellm- Media Specialist and Mrs. Smith Technology Specialist.

High School:

WHS is in the final week of our second trimester. This is always a busy time with final exams, papers, etc, but it's even more hectic as we make plans for our students to return in person. While a final determination has not been made on what learning model we will return in, much of our work in the past has focused on being ready for having students in the building after spring break.

Plans are being finalized for our juniors to take the ACT test and our freshmen to take the Pre-ACT test on March 30. Administering the tests will tie up most of the building and all of our staff, so this will be a No School day for our sophomores and seniors.

Students and parents are invited to participate in Minnesota's Virtual College Exploration event. It's a great way to learn more about college applications, financial aid, etc. and will involve more than 150 colleges and universities from across the country. Students and parents are able to register at www.mn-acac.org if they are interested.

Registration for the 2021-22 school has been completed and we'll be ready to start the process of determining sections and building a master schedule. Our enrollment numbers are up a little for next year, and we expect to get more 9th grade registrations in the weeks ahead.

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

WHS Triple A and ExCEL Award winners announced! Congratulations to Seniors **Bram Fitzsimonds and Kate Ulrich** on being named the 2021 Triple A winners. A special shout out to Kate Ulrich for also being selected as the Region 2AA Triple A representative! Our ExCEL Award winners are Juniors **Mason Machtemes and Kaethe Ludford**, congratulations to both of them as well! A complete bio for each of our award winners can be found on our www.waconiaathletics.com website! Well Done Wildcats!

Community Ed:

On February 23, we held the first annual Virtual Preschool and Kids' Company open house. It definitely was not the same as having an in person open house but it still worked! Our

registration for the 2021-2022 opens on Monday, March 1 for current families. On March 17, registration opens for everyone.

Registrations are coming in for our rec soccer program. This program is for kids in Pre-K - 6th grade. Hopefully it will be an early spring so we can get our kids out on the fields early!

Our spring and summer online brochure will be made live on our website on Monday, March 15.

Human Resources:

Superintendent Devine, our principals and directors came together on February 23 to begin the process of teacher staffing for the 2021-2022 school year. Our district staffing team reviewed student enrollment as well as upcoming teacher retirements and resignations. This process will continue over the course of this spring with available positions advertised as soon as possible to ensure that we have the largest pool of teaching candidates to select from for our district's students. Interviews will be conducted throughout the spring and potentially into the summer months depending on student enrollment.

Open enrollment for employee benefits is tentatively slated to begin on April 15 and extend through May 3, 2021. Our School District's employees will continue to have multiple options to select from for medical insurance plans and a dental plan. Flexible Spending Plans for medical and dependent care expenses, EyeMed vision materials insurance, and CIGNA supplemental life and AD&D insurance continue as popular voluntary options for our School District's employees. The new plan year for insurance plans will begin on July 1, 2021.

Student Services:

Middle School came back into hybrid and the students brought great energy back to the building. We are excited to bring students back to high school as well. Plans for Extended School Year (ESY) are underway for the summer of 2021. Teaching staff, schedules, and paraprofessionals will be determined in the next month. For students to participate in ESY, students must meet eligibility requirements.

Teaching & Learning:

MTSS Institute: Since January, a team of ten D110 Principals, Directors, and Managers have been participating in a 6-session institute offered through the University of Minnesota. The topic is Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and this experience directly supports one of the district's strategic initiatives. U of M researchers and facilitators have been very helpful in guiding our team. The objectives of this institute include:

- Increase knowledge of MTSS core components
- Build teams' capacity to implement an MTSS framework with fidelity
- Develop a comprehensive MTSS process guide

Teacher Evaluation: This past week, Teaching and Learning has been able to meet with all faculty groups to provide an update regarding the new teacher evaluation model. We thank Nate Byrne, WEA President, for his involvement and leadership, and also thank members of this year's pilot cohort for providing critical and constructive feedback.

Superintendent:

As we come up on the one year anniversary of sending students home to a new Distance Learning model of learning due to the pandemic, it is time to reflect on a year like no other and one filled with gratitude for being at ONE10.

In the past 12 months, the students, staff and parents have done things that no one could have imagined. The incredible partnership and amazing work to overcome the exceptional challenges has been nothing short of remarkable.

THANK YOU to ALL at ONE10!!!

Transitioning our Safe Learning Plan for all students to be In-Person

At the school board work session, we discussed three options for returning our 7-12 students to In-Person Learning sometime after spring break. We used data and information from the [Safe Learning Plan Determining Factors](#) document in our discussion. From the school board feedback, the admin and staff have been working on logistics of how to bring students back safely the week after spring break. The final recommendation is being presented to the school board on March 1. (Expect a detailed plan on Monday night.)

We are excited to welcome all students back into our school buildings! We are working on all the safety challenges and we will provide the necessary safety mitigations and student/staff support to make the return happen the best we can. We realize that when it is safe to do so, in-person learning is best for students, parents and staff. We will continue to work on all logistics and remain cautiously optimistic about the return.

We are thankful for how much all at ONE10 love our students and how they want to provide them with the best learning model possible. Now that the Governor and MDE have lessened some of the safety requirements, we are confident that we can build an In-Person model that can work for our ONE10 students and staff. This is exciting news and something the majority of our students, staff and parents have been waiting for. A Big Thanks go out to all for what they are doing to make this transition happen. A special thanks to our ONE10 school board members for their due diligence and sound decision making throughout this pandemic. We really appreciate the patience,

understanding and support during our 2020-21 pandemic journey. The student, staff and parent partnership continues to be outstanding!! WE are ONE10!

Proposed plan to be recommended to the school board:

- **Monday, March 15:**
 - No school for students in grades 6-12 (per Governor's Executive Order to provide transition planning time to staff)
 - Transition planning day for WMS and WHS staff
 - Normal school day for Early Learning through 5th grade students

- **Tuesday, March 16:**
 - Students in grades 7-12 return to In-person Learning
 - All student in grades E-12 will be on campus for In-Person Learning

- Per Governor's Executive Order, teachers will be given additional planning time in order to deliver instruction to both In-Person and Distance Learning students. To accommodate for this planning time, WMS will have a 2 hour early release on Fridays and all WHS will have a full Distance Learning day on Fridays. (Many WMS and almost all WHS staff have distance learning students to teach.)

Details of the transition will be communicated to the school board Monday night and to students, parents and staff at the building level. More information will follow the school board meeting on Monday night.

We will work with all staff that have health concern with returning to in-person learning.

Educator Covid Vaccination Update

The county and the state have increased availability of the Covid Vaccination for all educators. Many staff members are receiving a Covid Vaccination opportunity at one of three locations: Waconia Event Center (thanks to CCPH and Ridgeview); Minneapolis Convention Center; Mall of America.

Carver County Public Health informed us that they are in the process of planning to offer school staff vaccinations on Wednesday, March 3 at the Waconia Event Center. Details are still being finalized and we will share information with staff once it becomes available.

We also realize that many pharmacies across the state have opened opportunities for people 65+. The more our ONE10 staff take these opportunities, the safer it will make our schools.

Spring Break Travel Suggestions

As many are eager for the much needed and well deserved spring break, we wanted to pass along some of the suggestions that we have been given from MDH. At this point, we have no travel restrictions or requirements for quarantining upon returning from any spring break trips. We simply ask that you continue to do what you have been doing to keep our Covid numbers low. When you return from spring break, make sure to follow the daily screening protocols and stay at home if you feel sick or have a fever. Get tested when needed.

[ONE10 Screening Tool](#)

MDH Recommendations:

If you must travel

Protect yourself and others during your trip:

- Clean your hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Keep 6 feet of space between yourself and others.
- Wear a mask.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Bring enough of your medications to last the entire trip.
- Consider packing food or picking up food from the store, drive-throughs, or curbside pickup.

Federal Covid Relief Funding

We have expressed our concerns about the inequities of how the Federal [Covid Relief Funding](#) is being distributed to schools in MN. I am encouraged to hear back from legislators at both state and federal levels who say they are aware of this inequity and are in discussions about what can be done. Even though there are no guarantees that we will see any immediate changes, we have raised awareness and now have the potential to see an impact in how Covid Relief funding is allocated in the future. I want to thank all our legislative representatives for their commitment to our community and our schools. A special shout out to Representative Jim Nash and Senator Julia Coleman for their attention to this ONE10 concern.

Information from the Minnesota Department of Health

MDH announced a recommendation for all school-age youth returning to school, youth sports, or extracurricular activities, and their families, to get tested every two weeks through the end of the school year. While it is not a requirement, regular testing complements other safety measures already in place, such as masking and social distancing.

Schools and youth organizations can send messages and resources available on [COVID-19 Testing for Kids and Families](#) to families to encourage testing. Getting tested every two weeks from now until the end of the school year can help keep schools open and sports operating, and ensure we are limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Every two weeks ONE10 will continue to offer a Covid Saliva Test to employees that choose to have one.

**May ALL Enjoy a Relaxing Spring Break!!
WE Are ONE10!!**