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November 10, 2020

Dear Buchanan Community Schools Family,

This school year has been a tough year for everyone. Our staff and students returned to school in September with excitement and energy about the school year. We have all balanced how to attend, teach, and socialize in school while in a pandemic situation. We have followed the CDC and the Berrien County Health Department guidelines and strategies to help in mitigation. Our staff and students continue to wear masks, social distance as much as possible, clean and disinfect, contact trace, and self-monitor. Across the district (K-12) we currently have 11 staff members who are in isolation or quarantine and 122 students who are in isolation or quarantine. In addition to these numbers, our teaching staff is trying to balance in-person learning and remote learning with students who are quarantined which is overwhelming for our staff.

**Due to all of the factors listed above, our district will move to full remote learning for all students starting tomorrow, Wednesday, November 11, 2020, through Friday, December 4, 2020. Students will return to in-person instruction Monday, December 7, 2020. On a special note, CTE classes will still run at Buchanan High School (in-person) and students should plan to attend. CTE students will be provided transportation if they are going out to other districts according to the normal schedule. Contact Mr. Frey if you have questions. Transportation will also be provided to those students who normally attend off-campus classes like the math and science center. Please contact Stacey DeMaio if you have any questions.**

I know this decision will cause inconvenience for families and this decision is not an easy decision to make. We would like to continue in-person instruction however, it has become increasingly difficult for us to continue providing effective and efficient instruction while handling the impact of COVID-19.

During this time, your child's principal will communicate closely with you regularly. We are creating systems of support for our families who may not have internet access or connectivity issues and we will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to all our families. We will continue with our athletic programs as well as programs like CTE and off-campus learning programs. You may also see some community service activities happening due to the ability to control much smaller groups through social distancing.

Our goal is to take control of what we can control in this situation. We have seen a spike in our numbers and we will do what is necessary to keep our children safe.

At this time, we ask for your patience and understanding while we navigate through this together.

Educationally yours,

Patricia Robinson, Superintendent