



Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 269-695-8401 Fax: 269-695-8450

401 West Chicago Street Buchanan, Michigan 49107

April 9, 2021

Dear Staff and Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for your continued support of COVID-19 mitigation strategies at home, at work and in the community. Your efforts have helped Berrien County reduce and/or control the spread of the virus, ensure hospital room availability to those in need, and protected our friends and families from getting this disease. Our area was one of the few in the state where nearly every school district has been able to offer in-person instruction in August and has continued to keep their doors open for the past 7 months. This progress can directly be attributed to educators' commitment to safety, including cohorting of students, practicing of social distancing, frequent hand-washing, participating in daily health screenings and wearing masks.

This morning Governor Whitmer recommended the voluntary suspension of in-person learning for high school students and pause of spring sports over the next two weeks. Following this recommendation Berrien County Superintendents met with the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) to review local data and assess if the Governor's voluntary recommendation fit the data in Berrien County. **Based on a review of local data and the recommendation of the Berrien County Health Department (see attached BCHD letter) it is felt to be in the best interest of student learning to continue in-person instruction and spring sports at the present time.** In the days ahead, consistent and careful reviews of data will determine the ability to continue in-person learning and/or spring sports. Everyone will have to do their part to keep in-person learning available to the students of Berrien County.

Again, we thank you for your diligence. The Berrien County Health Department, along with the area school leaders, are very hopeful that with additional vaccination availability and continued proactive measures, we will be able to overcome this pandemic. Until then, please continue to social distance, wash your hands, wear your mask as directed, and do not send students to school if they are ill.

Please also see the attached letter from the Berrien County Health Department.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia L. Robinson".

Patricia L. Robinson

Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools