



BELLE VERNON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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Dr. Michele Lee Dowell
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November 20, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

As many of you have heard in the news, the positive cases of COVID-19 have increased dramatically in the last few weeks. The PCR test percent positive for the Belle Vernon Area School District Community went from 7.14% on October 23, 2020 to 21.81% today. It is also important to note that we have had a significant number of individuals who have had to quarantine because of close contacts with positive COVID people outside of school as well.

Today we were notified of two COVID-19 positive cases at Marion Elementary School. Both cases have caused us to have to contract trace within the building. If your child was someone in close contact with one of the positive individuals, you have been notified by the school district. Once again, we are following all the recommendations from the PA Department of Health.

As a result of these two cases, Marion Elementary School will be closed beginning on Monday, November 23, 2020. We are following guidelines put out by the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Education. Our students and staff are our number one priority.

Also, out of concern for the safety of our students and staff, we are making the difficult decision to go to full remote learning for all buildings for two weeks after the Thanksgiving break. All students across the district will be on remote instruction until Friday, December 11, 2020 and will return to our hybrid plan of instruction on Monday, December 14, 2020. To be very clear on the dates of instruction, please follow the information below:

- **Marion Elementary School will be on full remote instruction for all students from Monday, November 23, 2020 to Friday, December 11, 2020**
- **Rostraver Elementary School, Belle Vernon Area Middle School and Belle Vernon Area High School will be on full remote instruction for all students from Tuesday, December 1, 2020 to Friday, December 11, 2020**

Please know that this decision was not made lightly but when weighing the safety of our students and staff, I will always lean on the side of caution. With the Thanksgiving holiday next week, I am concerned that our number of positive COVID-19 cases will only increase. Please stay safe this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele Dowell
Superintendent of Schools