

April 2, 2021

**To:** Spectrum Community

**Re: Important Updates**

Spring break is a great time to get refreshed and geared up for the final push towards the end of the school year! Here are a handful of important updates for the last eight weeks of the school year:

- The latest COVID-19 Information and its Impact at School;
- The Strategic Planning Process and Feedback Needed;
- A (Board-approved) Change in Calendar for the Last Week of School; and
- An Update on Graduation Planning.

### **COVID-19 and Impact at School**

As you are likely aware, the COVID-19 positive tests per 10,000 people in Sherburne County have been on the rise in recent weeks (40+/10,000). While the numbers are not currently near levels seen in November of 2020 (200+/10,000), Spectrum has seen the impact with these rising numbers. One way that students and families have been impacted is through the quarantine requirements. For example, each time a student tests positive, the school is required to contact trace back 48 hours. Depending upon when the school is informed, this could include multiple classes as well as bussing. As a result, any student who was within 6 feet of that student for 15 minutes or more is required to quarantine. Over the two weeks prior to spring break, Spectrum had 2 students who tested positive requiring contact tracing. All families with a student that was considered a close contact were notified.

Spectrum is committed to maintaining our current learning model for the remainder of the school year. There are several reasons we believe this will be possible:

- First, many staff members have been fully vaccinated, which means they are not required to quarantine if they are considered to be a close contact;
- Second, staff have been doing a nice job of maintaining distancing in classes so they are not impacted by close contact quarantine requirements and can continue working with students in person; and
- Third, if for any reason Spectrum does experience a staffing shortage prior to the end of the school year, administration has a plan to monitor students in larger spaces in order to get through the quarantine time period.

In order to minimize any impact to students and staff due to close contact requirements, please continue to contact the school immediately if your student or someone in your household receives a positive test.

### **Strategic Planning Process Update**

A big thank you goes out to all parents, students, and staff who have taken time to provide feedback to the school board via surveys and listening sessions. Spectrum is an amazing school and your participation in our ongoing improvement efforts plays an important role in our success. The Strategic Planning Committee (made up of Board members, administration, staff, parents, and students) has been meeting to review information and begin the process of helping to set the course for Spectrum's next 5 years.

### **Feedback Needed – Possible Modified Schedule for 2021-2022 School Year**

One area that has come up at the Strategic Planning Committee is the possibility of continuing with a modified school calendar next school year. Spectrum has heard from a number of people who have appreciated the opportunities that Mondays have provided in the current school year. Administration is considering recommending a modified schedule to the Board for 2021-2022, which would likely include the following elements:

- (1) Students would be required to be on campus Tuesday through Friday and learning from home on Mondays. The plan would differ from the current advisory Mondays. Instead, students would participate in each of their classes

asynchronously on Mondays – meaning teachers would provide lessons and assignments would need to be completed similar to a regular (8 period) school day. This would allow teachers and students to continue through the full curriculum, which had to be modified during the pandemic.

- (2) Spectrum would provide staffing on Mondays where students could choose to be on campus (a safe place to learn and work) – with access to bussing, lunches, quality internet, other students, and an adult to monitor and assist (if needed).
- (3) Mondays for staff would be utilized for professional development, meetings, curriculum writing, grading, and specified times to work directly with students.

The School Board will be considering the 2021-2022 school calendar at its April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The administrative proposal may include many or all Mondays as asynchronous school days and will be dependent upon at least two things: approval from the Minnesota Department of Education and feedback received from parents and staff. Administration wants to consider all angles. [Please take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire by Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.](#)

#### **Change in Calendar for the Last Week of School (May 24-28)**

In order to accommodate Spectrum's 4-day on campus week for the remainder of the current school year, at their March meeting, the School Board made (what we hope to be) the last change to the 2020-2021 calendar. This change impacts all students and moves the last school day for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students (seniors) to Wednesday, May 26. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Current Calendar</b>	<b>New Calendar</b>
Mon.	May 24	A Day for all students (6-12)	Changed to online student advisory day ONLY for grades 6-12
Tues.	May 25	B Day for all students (6-12) and last day for seniors	Changed to an A Day for grades 6-12
Wed.	May 26	A Day for 6-11	Changed to a B Day for grades 6-12 and NEW last day of school for seniors
Thurs.	May 27	Modified B Day for 6-11 with an early release for graduation	Changed to an A Day for grades 6-11 ONLY with an early release for graduation
Fri.	May 28	8 period day for 6-11 and last day for 6-11	Changed to a B Day for grades 6-11. Last day of school for grades 6-11

#### **Graduation Planning**

Spectrum has been monitoring the Governor's Executive Orders and guidance from the Minnesota Departments of Education and Health related to graduation. As you know, and many have experienced over the past 12 months, guidance changes (often) depending upon the circumstances and any allowances typically come with stringent requirements for distancing, face coverings, contact tracing, and limitations.

Spectrum hopes to provide (1) a live graduation ceremony where graduates and limited family members attend, (2) live streaming of the ceremony for others to watch, and (3) a possible parade (as was done last year).

Thank you for your patience and ongoing support.



Dan DeBruyn  
Executive Director