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December 13, 2021

To: Spectrum Community

Re: Switch to asynchronous distance learning optional this week and required next week

As you know, Spectrum has been closely monitoring student and staff absences due to illness since the beginning of the school year. Up until this week, student illness numbers have remained fairly low and steady. However, today we experienced a significant increase in those numbers with over **80 students out**. This is approximately 10% of our student body. While illness can mean a number of things, a handful of these students have tested positive for COVID so far.

Given the increase in student illness over such a short period of time, Spectrum administration has determined that measures need to be taken to limit exposure. While not required, **where possible, all Spectrum families are encouraged to have their students learn asynchronously through distance learning beginning this Wednesday, December 15**. However, teachers will be on campus teaching their regular classes for the remainder of this week for all students whose parents/guardians choose for them to attend on campus. Since this came up unexpectedly today, teachers have not had sufficient time to convert all courses to asynchronous mode. While they will try to have materials and assignments posted on Schoology by tomorrow (Tuesday), they have committed to ensuring they are posted and accessible by Wednesday for any students learning asynchronously through distance learning. If students are staying home this week, they should continue to access their courses and complete and submit work in the timeline and manner requested by their teachers.

In addition, **all students will be required to learn asynchronously through distance learning from home Monday, December 20 through Wednesday, December 22**. Winter break is already scheduled to begin for students on Thursday, December 23. All teachers will be teaching from home next week as well. Coursework will only be available asynchronously on Schoology following the E-learning Day Expectations (e.g., Students will login to their Chromebooks after 10:00am to check email and Schoology for instructions and schoolwork. Teachers, administrators, and other licensed staff will be available by email and/or through Schoology from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. until 2:40 p.m.). Requiring distance learning next week for all students will create a full two week window when students are not in contact with each other in classes. We are hopeful that this will help students to get well and everyone to return to campus after winter break on January 3.

If parents/guardians choose to have their students learn from home this week, it's important that their students **pick up all materials** tomorrow (textbooks, supplies, materials, art projects, Chromebooks, etc.). All other students will need to take all of their items home on Friday in preparation for distance learning next week.

**Buses** will continue to run at their regular times for the remainder of this week. Regular bus routes will not run next week since all students will be learning from home.

**Athletics will continue as scheduled for now**. Parents/guardians, please continue to be diligent in monitoring students' health and notifying coaches that they will not be practicing and competing if they are symptomatic. We understand that this may cause inconvenience after school since transportation to school for practices or competitions may be a challenge for families at that time. We will be talking with Northstar tomorrow about whether any assistance may be possible.

Given the very short notice, we will be working with Premier Kitchen on a plan for **lunches next week** for those who may still want them. More information will be coming out later this week.

We are very sorry for any inconvenience and greatly appreciate your support as we try to balance all of the variables, provide options for families, and give time for families and teachers to plan and adjust.

Sincerely,

Dan DeBruyn  
Executive Director