

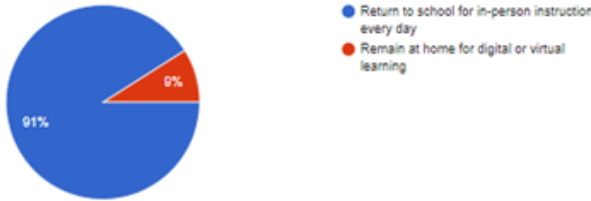


### Return to School Plan, Parent Survey Results

Earlier this summer, nearly 280 parents and guardians participated in the survey sent out regarding the return to school for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Schweitzer notes, “I am appreciative of the many parents and guardians who took the time to complete this survey and provide their feedback regarding the many questions we have about starting school in the fall. The feedback has been very helpful in understanding perspectives, as well as influencing our developing plans.”

#### TYPES OF SCHOOLING

The large majority of respondents, 91% of the 279, indicated that they prefer a return to in-person instruction every day for the coming school year. Of the 279 respondents, 187 (67%) indicated a concern that students would not be able to return to school so as to form relationships with peers and teachers.



Just under 10 percent of those responding indicated an interest in virtual instruction. “This feedback has significantly driven our return plan, which is based upon in-person instruction, five days a week, for all grades. However, we also want to recognize the 9% of respondents who are seeking a virtual means of instruction for their child. As an administrative team, we asked ourselves how we could provide this form of instruction as well. Drawing upon past relationships with virtual educators, I believe we have come about a solid opportunity for the students represented in this 9%,” commented Mrs. Schweitzer.

Currently, the Plan calls for four types of instruction:

- **In-person:** students and staff returning to the bricks and mortar classrooms for instruction.
- **BlendEd:** daily synchronous, real-time instruction with the classroom teacher and peers through a digital platform such as ZOOM
- **Virtual:** daily, on-line learning through a third-party vendor who provides both the teachers and the classes a student needs for a full course load for the semester or the year
- **Digital Learning Days (DLD):** both the Shiocton teacher and student are at home using a digital platform such as ZOOM on a daily basis to connect for both instruction and support as students continue learning the curriculum used during their in-person instruction (very similar to last spring but more synchronous)

According to Mrs. Schweitzer, “The BlendEd offering is a limited resource based upon what our bandwidth can support. Thus, at this time, this option will be limited to those of greatest priority: the student who is medically fragile; the student who has a medically fragile immediate family member living in the home; the student on quarantine.”

The Plan, as reviewed in first draft by the Board of Education during its regular meeting on Monday, July 20, includes the virtual offering, noting that it is “on a case-by-case basis”. “Virtual education, in its truest sense,

(continued on Page 2)

### CHIEF CHATTER

#### Athletics and Co-curriculars

The continued concerns regarding the spread of COVID through the projection and transfer of respiratory droplets has many of us wondering, what will happen come fall for band, choir, and athletics.

#### Let’s Hear It for the Band (and Choir, too)

As an administrative team, we have looked at multiple options for band and choir, for which we know there are added concerns for the enhanced projection of the droplets given the shear force musicians and vocalists must use when producing sounds through instruments or voice. Interim steps have been taken including the cancelation of band camp, which has traditionally been held in August, as well as the proposed change to the instructional schedule come fall. Students in band are currently slated to meet in thirds so as to reduce the number of students in the band room and thereby allow greater opportunity to spread out within the space. An example could be: woodwinds on Monday, brass on Tuesday, percussion on Thursday, and full band outside on Wednesday and Friday. Choirs students can expect to wear masks and be spread out within the room more than in years past. Opportunities to share their (continued on Page 4)

### Shiocton School District

#### 2020-2021 Registration

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will take place in August. Both on-line and in-person registration will be offered. Watch for specific information to be shared the week of August 3.



**School District of Shiocton**  
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**NICK ORTLIEB**  
 Principal Grades 7-12

**KIM GRIESBACH**  
 Principal Grades PK-6

**KELLY THIEL**  
 Special Education Director

**MICHAEL SIPPERT**  
 Business Manager

#### **School Board**

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 Town of Ellington  
*Vice President:* Jeremie Birch  
 Town of Bovina  
*Clerk:* David Gomm  
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*Member:* Aaron Pluger  
 Town of Bovina  
*Member:* Melinda Hofacker  
 Town of Maine

*All residents of the school district are welcome to attend board meetings to keep informed on school issues or to voice any concerns they may have.*

*The Link is published monthly, from September through June and can be viewed at [www.shiocton.k12.wi.us](http://www.shiocton.k12.wi.us).*

*If you do not have Internet access, you may request a copy by mail by calling (920) 986-3351 ext. 700. Submit any articles for publication by mail to the school address or by e-mail to: [thelink@shiocton.k12.wi.us](mailto:thelink@shiocton.k12.wi.us).*

*The Shiocton School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.*

#### **(Plan continued from Page 1)**

and not the digital learning of spring, is very difficult. It takes great self-initiative and strong time management skills. Having led the opening of the State's first virtual school back in 2002, I can speak first hand to this and to the many students who were not successful. Therefore, we will incorporate the self-assessment and conversation features from our third-party when talking with those students whose parents indicate an interest in virtual instruction. Thus, the case-by-case basis."

Parents will be asked to choose between in-person and virtual instruction during registration next month. Parents of students who meet the definition of "medically fragile" will be contacted by an administrator to discuss options and next steps. Digital Learning will be implemented when a closure occurs, be it COVID, weather, or otherwise.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

Just over 50% of the survey respondents indicated that their child(ren) would be riding the bus. The Plan currently calls for bus routes similar to last year but changes may be made based upon the transportation selected during registration; parents will be asked to choose between 'bus transportation' or 'own transportation', which could include bike riding, walking, or rides from other people.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

The introduction to the Plan states that the goal is "a healthy and safe-as-possible return to in-person instruction for all of our students and staff. To the very best of our ability, we will implement the health and safety protocols and procedures (best practices) recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) while balancing these best practices with what we know to be true: "kids will be kids" and they need to be with each other for learning and for play. We acknowledge and accept that our responsibility lies to both the students and the staff within our schools. The health, safety, and well-being of students and staff will be at the forefront of all of our efforts."

Currently, the CDC and other health organizations are recommending the following safety protocols and precautions be incorporated:

- Social distancing of 6'
- Wearing a face covering
- Washing hands often (before and after touching objects, especially those shared)
- Using hand sanitizer
- Cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing items and surfaces after each use and between person [NOTE: cleaning and disinfecting can be done with soapy water, as well as disinfecting spray when using gloves; sanitizing is performed by trained personnel]

#### **REQUIRED or STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**

The incorporation of all of the protocols and precautions are strongly recommended and will be worked into the students' day and routines, as well as those of the staff,

including custodians. The next greatest concern per the survey feedback as voiced by 35% of the respondents was for our cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing procedures. The Plan calls for supplies to be in classrooms as appropriate and nightly sanitizing of learning areas and surfaces with compounds designed for this purpose.

The third greatest concern (32%) was a feeling of too many changes or restrictions being put in place. One comment captured the essence of this concern, "I am concerned school won't be fun and welcoming anymore." Mrs. Schweitzer noted, "It is truly a balancing act for all of us: the incorporation of protocols and precautions to keep staff and student health while also keeping the learning engaging and fun."

#### **SITUATIONAL MASKING**

"Currently, our plan is based upon strongly encouraging the implementation of all protocols and precautions, including facial coverings, which could include shields, gaiters, and other fabric-based mouth and nose coverings commonly referred to as masks. The Plan also includes education of staff and students as to why these protocols and precautions need to be incorporated into our every day life right now. Our belief is that if we educate people of all ages as to the 'why', that they will then be able to self-elect to incorporate their use."

Just under 90% of respondents indicated they would still send their child(ren) to school even if masks were not required of staff nor students. While the Plan, at current time, does fall short of requiring face coverings, it does include the provision for 'situational masking', which is a situation in which the health and safety of students and staff is best served by requiring facial coverings. An example would be when students are working in partners or small groups and cannot maintain a 6' social distance such as in the case of science labs, guided reading instruction, spotting for a weightlifter, etc. Another example might be when a person within the class has a minor health concern that can readily be attended to such that s/he can remain in the classroom if persons mask.



#### **NEXT STEPS**

We continue to adjust the return plan as new data, trend lines, guidelines, orders, and the like are shared with us. On Monday, July 27, the Board of Education will take up the Plan, in its amended form, for a second reading and potential action. The meeting will begin at 6PM in the LMC. The first draft is accessible from the website at <https://sites.google.com/a/shiocton.k12.wi.us/shiocton-schools-board-of-education/board-meetings/july-20-2020>. When finalized, a copy of the Return to School Plan for the district and for the schools will be made available to parents and the general public.

# REQUIRED NOTICE OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS 2020 – 2021

The School District of Shiocton continues to align its curriculum to the Wisconsin Academic Standards, which include the Common Core State Standards in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards for Science. Gr 4K and the Shiocton Child Care Center align their curriculum to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS).

## Links to the Standards:

Wisconsin State Standards: <https://dpi.wi.gov/standards>

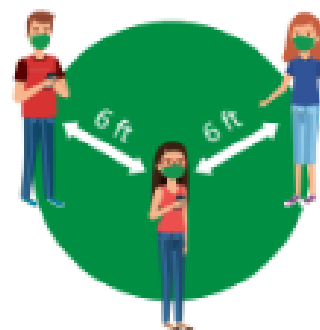
Common Core State Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/read-the-standards/>

Next Generation Science Standards: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/search-standards>

Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/fscf/pdf/ec-wmels-rev2013.pdf>

## Weekly Letters Resume July 24, 2020

Mrs. Schweitzer will resume her weekly letter to parents and guardians on Friday, July 24, 2020. Similarly to those provided throughout the COVID-19 closure last spring, Mrs. Schweitzer will share information about key topics, upcoming events, and messages from other school personnel so that everyone is informed and updates coming into the return to school this fall.



~ Mrs. Schweitzer

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2020

August 5 marks the start of Summer School 2020, which will run for two weeks, through August 19. As students return to the classrooms, there are several protocols and precautions that will be taken; much of our Return to School Plan currently being reviewed by the Board of Education will also be implemented as it pertains to summer school.

Learn more about Summer School 2020 at <https://www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/district/summer-school-.cfm>

Be sure to contact Mrs. Griesbach with questions: [kgriesbach@shiocton.k12.wi.us](mailto:kgriesbach@shiocton.k12.wi.us) or (920) 986-3351 x721

## It's About Me, You, and Us

*Whether we believe in the coronavirus or not, whether we believe there is a need for the recommended safety precautions or not, the one thing that we can all believe in is the benefit of working together for the common good. To that end, we will be working with staff and students to understand that what we do impacts the self and others.*

*Whether it is washing hands, maintaining distance, wearing a face covering, or other, our actions show care, compassion, and a commitment to community.*

*Regardless of your personal preference or beliefs, please join me in showing care, compassion, and community towards one another and through your children as we seek to bring our students and staff back together this fall for instruction and excellence in education.*

# It's about...

## Care

I don't know if I'm sick but I do know that I can spread it without showing symptoms.

## Compassion

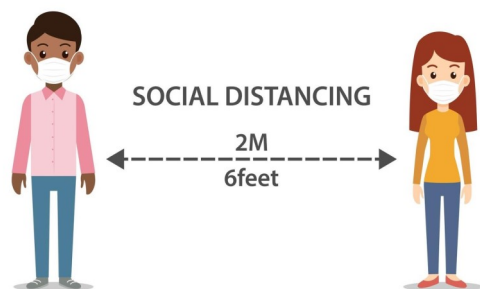
I don't know who you need to go home to and stay healthy for.

## Community

I need to do my part to keep everyone healthy.



# Notes from the Nurse



To keep the flu from spreading to more people, we ask you to keep sick children home. Also, any children who are sick and in school must be picked up within 30 minutes. Please, make sure that our school has appropriate contact information to reach you in the event your child becomes ill at school. Below are guidelines

on when and how long a student is required to stay home (please note that this is a fluid situation and subject to change):

- Please keep your student home if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19. With a diagnosis they must stay home until all symptoms have resolved for 72 hours without fever reducing medication and ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.**
- A person, who has had 15 minutes or more of direct, close (< 6 feet) contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive must stay home until 14 days after last exposure and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others at all times. With this direct exposure, symptoms can appear anywhere between 2 and 14 days.**
- Throughout the school year, check your student's temperature and for all COVID-19 symptoms every morning and evening. Please keep your student home if they have one or more of the following symptoms (see box below). If they have symptoms, call your medical provider to see if your student should be tested for COVID-19 and how long they should stay home from school.**

- Fever < 100.4 or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Body Rash

(Chatter continued from Page 1)

vocal talents from outside will also be capitalized on. For both subject areas, we look forward to further guidance from their state-level organization, as well as the Department of Health Services.

## Friday Night Lights ... or No?

That is truly the million dollar question. And not just about football -- about all sports, fall through spring. There is much ado among coaches, athletic directors, administrators, WIAA and everywhere, really. And there are little answers anywhere. As I write, the WIAA Board of Control has set a second emergency meeting to discuss options for fall sports, as well as the full year of sports. In the past week, several options have been floated, everything from cancelling the season (we are NOT in support of this option) to delaying the start of fall sports only, to delaying the start of all sports with and without shortened seasons.

As one who voraciously consumes all things ESPN (well, maybe not golf), sports and co-curriculars alike are hugely important in the lives of our students and in the adults that coach, raise, and celebrate them. And while we all want to see the resumption of sports for the kids' sake, and for the sake of normalcy, it is imperative that we not forsake the health and well-being of our student-athletes, those they go home to, those who coach them, and those they otherwise could transfer the virus to by the sharing of respiratory droplets.

So, will we have Friday Night Lights? I have to say ... I simply don't know ... Yet ... So stay tuned. ~Mrs. Schweitzer

## School District of Shiocton's App

Are you looking to stay informed with activities that are happening at the School District of Shiocton? Activities from school sporting events, to organizational reminders, and school cancellations are sent through the School District of Shiocton's mobile app. If you are looking to stay in the "know", download the District App.



## \*\*\*IMMUNIZATION REMINDER\*\*\*

The following are the immunization requirements for the **2020-2021** school year for your child. Unless a waiver has been signed, all students are required to have their immunizations up to date on the **first day of the new school year**. Students **entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade** will need to receive a Tdap vaccine. Students **entering K5** will need to have a series of vaccines to be compliant with immunization law. Please provide the school with a copy of any new immunizations your child has received. Plan ahead and have your child immunized prior to the beginning of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse, Victoria Fors at 986-3351 ext. 714. Immunization forms can be found at [shiocton.k12.wi.us](http://shiocton.k12.wi.us)

### STUDENTS ENTERING

### NUMBER OF DOSES AND VACCINE REQUIRED

Pre K (2 yrs. - 4 yrs.)	4 DTP/DTaP	3 Polio	3 Hep B	1 MMR	1 Varicella
Grades K- 5	4 DTP/DTaP	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Varicella
Grades 6 - 12	1 Tdap	4 DTP/DTaP	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR 2 Varicella

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Fors or Mrs. Austin in the nurse's office after August 3 at (920) 986-3351 ext. 714.