



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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Dear Parents and Guardians ~

As we begin Week 3 of the new school year, I wanted to take a few minutes to catch everyone up on a few points of interest, and also to express our thanks.

We are **very appreciative** of all the efforts you have made to ensure your child is attending school only when they are healthy and keeping him/her home when there is a concern such as a body aches, chills, fever, congestion, and the like. I know the challenges having to stay home with a sick kiddo can present to a working parent, but keeping them home is what needs to be done so that we can keep the school and district open. So thank you again.

Speaking of keeping the school and district open, I wanted to **address a rumor** I have heard of late regarding closing the district down and shifting into virtual instruction. First, I want to assure you this is exactly that – a rumor. There are various renditions of this rumor but the base of all is simply untrue. There is no plan to close the district this Friday or any other day and go into long-term Digital Learning.

We are **practicing Digital Learning** in our classrooms so that IF we have to close down a classroom, school, or even the district for a short period of time, we are all prepared for it. Prepared in our ability to post lessons and teach via ZOOM. Prepared in our students' ability to access those lesson and learn via ZOOM. We all know the benefits of preparing and practicing, especially when there are many unknowns out of our immediate control. It worked for the Packers yesterday, and it will work for us should the need arise.

This coming Friday, September 18, is what we refer to in Education as **"Third Friday Head Count"**. While it is true that this is the day upon which the State bases our funding, the day is much more significant in terms of ensuring all children are accounted for in the public school system across the state and the nation as moves and transfers recorded in the past few months are now confirmed. It is also true that we can "count" students who are learning by remote be it through virtual or digital learning means.

Though many of our surrounding districts and down into the Valley have chosen to play their fall sports in spring, we are moving forward with "fall in fall". Our first **volleyball** games for junior varsity and varsity are scheduled for Thursday, September 17. As this is an indoor event, and our space is limited, so will be our ability to offer attendance to fans in the stands. At this time, for the health and safety of our players and coaches, we will be limiting attendance to indoor events to two (2) tickets per player and coach, this includes volleyball games. Face coverings will be required and persons with tickets attending the event will be asked to observe social distancing recommendations of 6 feet. The Friday Night Lights will glow on September 18 as the **football** players kick-off their season with a scrimmage against Rosholt at both the JV and V levels. As this is an outside event, we will not be limiting the number of fans in the stands (and on the track) but will ask those attending to observe social distancing recommendations and wear face covering. We appreciate you supporting our on-going efforts to **keep athletes and coaches healthy**, by observing these limitations and requests.

We **greatly appreciate** your understanding of our efforts to keep players and coaches safe. We thank you for continuing to support our efforts by sending face coverings with your student to wear on the bus and at school, as well as conducting symptom checks before they leave home. Together, we will be successful in keeping our students learning in the classrooms with the teachers.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Schweitzer

"Where Excellence is Expected"

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.