

Superintendent's Message

Fall greetings to our Cadet community. It was wonderful to reopen our school doors after the state shut down of school buildings last spring. Fort Frye Local Schools is offering in-person classes for students at Fort Frye High School and our three elementary schools five days per week. Our district enrollment continues to remain slightly over 1000 students, which does not include students participating in preschool. I cannot begin to say enough positive things about how the staff, students, and families have come together to ensure that we can safely have school in our buildings.

Families were offered the opportunity for students to continue with remote learning if they had ongoing safety concerns about their children returning on campus during the pandemic. Approximately 5% of our students are currently completing remote learning using a software platform called PEAK.

Our District intends to continue with in-person learning through the remainder of the school year as long as it is safe to do so. However, we also have prepared to quickly transition to remote learning if necessary. As Superintendent, I am often asked for a definitive answer on what might force us to shut down our school buildings as a result of COVID-19 related issues. Unfortunately, there is no simple answer because it involves much data, medical situations, and county and state directives, and many of these variables shift unexpectedly. Sometimes I describe it as “flying the airplane as it is being built.”

If Fort Frye Local Schools has a confirmed student or staff member case of COVID-19, we will immediately complete close contact tracing with the Washington County Health Department so that individuals who need be quarantined are notified. We will then send out a general notification to the families of all students in the building that there has been a positive case. We will also respond with the appropriate safety precautions.

In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case, I urge our students, staff, families and communities to be sensible in your actions. We all know that a school system and community cannot eliminate all risks of a student being diagnosed with the virus, and our reaction should respect the privacy rights of others and show kindness and compassion. Being diagnosed with this virus does not mean a child, a family, or a school system did anything wrong. I anticipate that if we have any positive cases, our Cadets will respond in a respectful and responsible manner just like in reopening the school doors. I am so proud of our District. Let's continue to have a great school year!