



HOLLIS CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

District #328

5613 W. Tuscarora Road, Peoria, IL 61607 • Phone: (309) 697-1325

October 16, 2020

Dear Hollis Families,

Thank you for all of your work and support over the past nine weeks. Staff, students, and parents have been working together to keep everyone safe and in school. And while things haven't always been perfect, we are all incredibly pleased with how well everything has been going. As we move forward into the next few weeks and the beginning of cold and flu season, it is perhaps more important than ever that we maintain this level of commitment to health and safety. Here are a few ways you can help from home:

- Outside time is such a critical part of our students' day and providing that opportunity may become more limited as the weather gets colder. Please remind your children that when we are outside for recess and/or mask breaks, they must refrain from touching each other, and they should maintain a safe social distance.
- The students have been doing amazingly well with wearing their masks. Please ensure that masks are well-fitting. Masks should fit snugly across the face and completely cover the mouth and the nose. Please make sure that masks are cleaned regularly. Most cloth masks can be washed in the laundry or by hand. The CDC recommends washing your mask after each use.
- Students should continue to wear the self-certification lanyards. If your child does not have a lanyard in the morning, the adult driving them can certify that they are symptom free and have not had any close contact with a positive individual. If the lanyard is lost or damaged, please follow up with your child's homeroom teacher for a new one.

As symptoms are most likely going to increase with the onset of cold and flu season, please make sure you are aware students and/or close contacts of a person with any COVID symptom(s) will be sent home. These individuals will not be allowed to return to school until an alternate diagnosis is provided by a healthcare provider or a COVID test is performed. In either case, documentation is required to return in the form of an alternate diagnosis from the provider or the lab results of the negative COVID test.

Additionally, any individual who must quarantine due to close contact with a confirmed positive COVID case must provide a "release from quarantine" letter to the school. This letter, provided by the health department, may be sent with the child or sent via secure email or fax to the school. Either way, it must be sent prior to the student's return. All school districts are required to report any positive cases or close contacts to positive cases to the Peoria County Health Department. The health department will then follow up with the parent/guardian and help initiate contact tracing as well as plan the student's return to school.

Now that we are more comfortable being around others, it is imperative that we continue the best practices to fight the spread of COVID. Please continue to wash your hands, wear a mask, and practice social distancing. Remember that things can change at a moment's notice. While we are in person today, we may not always be so fortunate. Continue to have plans A, B, and C for unplanned schedule changes which may affect childcare and work schedules. It is our hope to remain in session and in person for as long as it is safely possible to do so.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.
Thank you for your continued support of Hollis Grade School!