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December 18, 2020

Good Afternoon, Everyone,

I hope this message finds you well having enjoyed yesterday's first large snowfall of the season. Please find attached a COVID Positive message for Auburn Middle School. There is only one to report at this time.

Please be reminded that all students in all cohorts will be remote next week. After reviewing three weeks of data from Thanksgiving (a brief break), its impact on the APS, and projections over the next two weeks, I do not think it makes good sense to bring faculty and staff back in-person the week of January 4th after two weeks out of school for the holidays.

I do realize the burden placed upon families with decisions to go remote. The stress that you feel is just as stressful for me knowing I am inflicting an added layer of frustration into your lives. All I can say is that I apologize and I am doing the best I can to try and hit a moving target with the intention of keeping in-person instruction going long-term with the least disruption possible. I wanted to let you know now, instead of January 2nd or 3rd, so you have time to plan.

Monday, January 11th, we will expect to return to in-person learning unless we have a staffing issue in one or more buildings, we cannot trace a COVID Positive case appropriately in one or more buildings, or something happens that is out of our control.

This coming Monday, we will be sharing our first newsletter focused on "Gratitude." I hope you take a few minutes to read the thoughts of our leadership team.

As always, thank you for your support, and I wish you a wonderful final weekend before Christmas.

Most Sincerely,

Casey

Casey J. Handfield, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools