

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
Memorandum

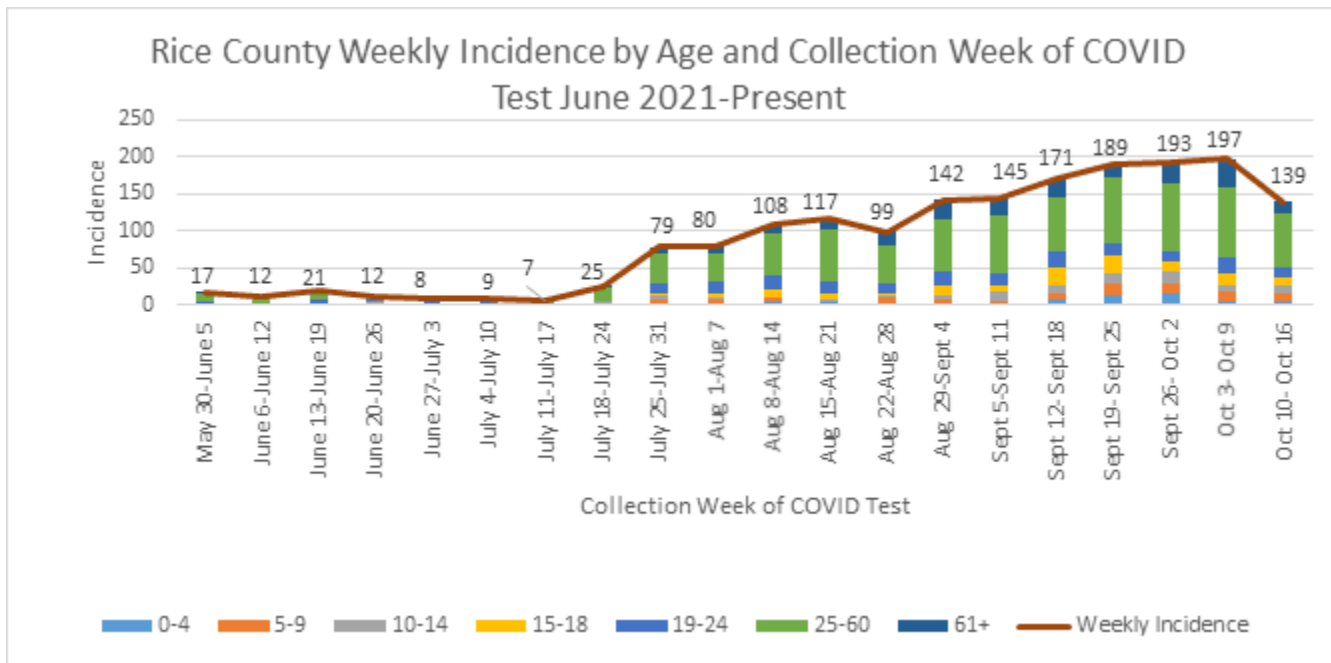
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Matt Hillmann Ed.D., Superintendent
RE: Table File Items for October 25, 2021, Regular School Board Meeting

5. Items for Discussion and Reports
 - c. Superintendent Operations and COVID-19 Update. Superintendent Hillmann's report has been updated to include the most current COVID-19 cases per week graph available from Rice County.

6. Consent Agenda
 - c. Personnel Items
 - i. Appointments
 10. Jocelyn Giefer, Assistant Dance Team Coach for 2 hours/day at the High School, beginning 10/26/2021; Level 2 \$4,480
 11. Winston Vermilyea, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Spring Creek, beginning 10/27/2021; Step 1-\$16.17/hr.
 - ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
 11. Mark Johnson, Grounds Worker with the District, add Event worker at the High School, effective 10/25/2021.
 12. Ruth Morgan-Malecha, Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for .92 hours/day with the District, change to Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for 1.05 hours/day with the District, effective 10/29/2021-6/10/2022.
 13. Debra Pack, Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for 1.67 hours/day with the District, change to Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for 1.54 hours/day with the District, effective 10/29/2021-6/10/2022.
 14. Rebekah Patterson, .55 FTE Reading Intervention Teacher at Bridgewater, change to .80 FTE Reading Intervention Teacher at Bridgewater, Effective 10/25/2021-6/9/2022.
 - iii. Leave of Absence
 - iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

Executive Summary: This report provides an overview of the district’s operations, bright spots, anti-racism work, and response to COVID-19.

The graph below represents the COVID-19 cases in Rice County per week. The chart is from the Rice County Public Health website.



The district began counting positive COVID-19 tests within the school community on Aug. 31. As of Oct. 20, the district had 63 total positive COVID-19 cases and 22 active cases recorded in the last 14 days. People can view the latest district data through the district’s COVID-19 dashboard at:

<https://northfieldschools.org/covid-19/reported-covid-19-cases-dashboard/>

The district average percentage of students quarantined for the week of Oct. 11-15 was 1.98%. The district average percentage of students absent with influenza-like illness symptoms was 1.58% during the same time frame.

COVID-19 Testing Program Update

The district is prepared to open the district’s COVID-19 testing center during the week of Oct. 25, 2021. The district has the Cue testing materials on-site and has hired a new staff member who will start on or around Oct. 28. The testing center will have an initial capacity of 19 tests per weekday. The district will add the BinaxNow test to its testing strategy after tests arrive, which is currently anticipated for the last week in October.

These testing resources should further reduce the number of students who need to quarantine within the district.

e-Learning Day Plan Update

The district will continue to use e-Learning days this school year. The purpose of e-Learning Days is to maintain instructional momentum when Minnesota winter weather disrupts the ability to provide in-person instruction rather than extend the school year later into June. e-Learning days will begin with the second day of winter-weather-related school closure. In past years,

e-Learning Days started with the third closure. Students will engage in live interaction with their teachers and independent learning activities on e-Learning days.

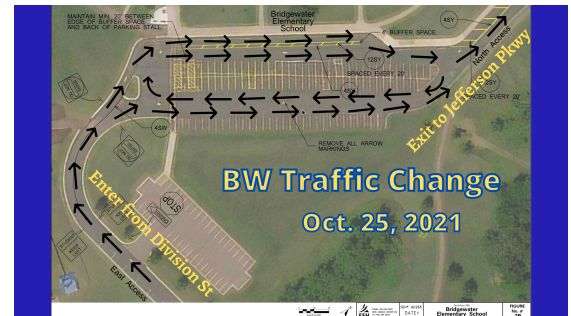
Teachers will post the day's activities, materials, and appropriate Zoom links to either Schoology (Grades 4-12) or SeeSaw (Grades PK-3) by 9:00 a.m. on an e-Learning Day.

It is vital to understand that e-Learning days are different from the distance learning that families experienced during the pandemic. Distance learning was intended to serve students' instructional needs over a longer time frame. An e-Learning day serves as an instructional bridge over Minnesota winter weather disruptions.

The district will post the formal updated e-Learning day plan to the district's website by Oct. 28.

Bridgewater Elementary School Traffic Pattern Change and City Council Lincoln Parkway Discussion

Traffic issues during the dropoff and pickup times at elementary schools are common across the nation. Since the pandemic, the traffic congestion at Bridgewater Elementary School has increased. The school district and the city have received additional complaints about this congestion. To address these concerns about increased congestion, the district is changing the entry and exit into the Bridgewater campus. Vehicles will enter the campus from Highway 246 (Division Street) and exit onto Jefferson Parkway. This will allow approximately twice as many vehicles to "stack" on school property, alleviating the backup of traffic onto Jefferson Parkway. The district made this decision in conjunction with the city. The city assisted in several ways, including [producing this video that was shared with families and the community](#). Principal Nancy Antoine and the district have used our cascading communication strategy to inform families and the community. The change has been included in multiple school e-newsletters, in a district-wide email to all families, through a Skylert phone message to Bridgewater families, a post on the district website, a news story on KYMN radio (and website), a post on the *Northfield News* website, and through social media.



There have also been concerns about increased congestion on Lincoln Parkway near Greenvale Park Elementary School and the Northfield Community Education Center. The district has met with city officials and attended a City Council meeting where it was an agenda item. The city is moving forward with implementing several solutions, including relocating the dynamic speed signs currently on Second Street near the District Offices and Area Learning Center building to Lincoln Parkway. The City Council directed their staff to bring specific recommendations for traffic delineators (these items can mimic "bump outs") that provide a visual reminder for drivers about crosswalks and pedestrian-activated beacons that could also assist in people crossing the street in the area near the school when cross guard services are not available.

Bright Spot: Northfield Community Action Center Food Shelf Open



The district's commitment to partnerships is well known in the community. This fall, the Northfield Community Action Center opened its satellite food shelf at the Northfield Community Education Center.

The site will serve families by offering a mix of fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen foods, pantry staples, and other essential items.

The program will help interrupt food insecurity for residents, especially those living on the north side of Northfield.