



Calumet Christian School

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Administrative Office located at the Clintonville Campus ~ www.calumetchristianschool.org

Dear Parents and Staff,

11.20.20

As I'm sure many of you have heard, Franklin County has been bumped up to Level 4 in the Ohio Public Health Advisory system. However, this increase in level was not accompanied with any mandate or recommendation to close schools.

Despite concerns in early summer that schools might serve as 'hotspots' for virus spread, recent data demonstrates that schools and children, especially those 14 and younger, are not major sources of virus spread (as long as precautions such as masking and distancing are in place)¹. Children can get the virus and spread the virus, but there is ample evidence that they are not spreading the virus at the same rates as adults.

In light of this, we plan to continue to remain open in-person unless we begin to see significant student to student spread or we see exposure/cases among staff that make it difficult to cover our in-person educational needs. We recognize there is risk involved in this decision, but there is risk on both sides. We are trying to consider not only the risk of spread, but also the developmental risk posed to students who are told they cannot see their friends or learn in-person.

Columbus' own Health Commissioner, Dr. Mysheika W. Roberts, has stated, "I made it clear to all of our superintendents here in Columbus that it was safe for the kids to go back in the classroom, assuming they wear masks and practice social distancing. Our data shows our cases are not coming from K-12. Our kids should be back in school. Our cases-per-capita is high...one of the highest we've ever been, but our kids are still safe in the classroom."²

Anecdotally, we have seen this to be the case at Calumet as well. In 11 weeks of school, we have had only 5 positive cases among students and 0 positive cases among staff (all have since recovered and are doing well). In all 5 cases students got the virus at home from an adult family member. In 4 of the 5 cases, students were already quarantining at home before they got it so they were not in school at all while infectious. In the one case where a student was infectious while at

school, the student was only at school for 3 hours and all those in close contact quarantined and tested negative.

Calumet has not seen a single instance of student to student spread, student to staff spread, or staff to student spread! This is a huge success and something to celebrate! God has blessed us abundantly! Staff, students, and parents have been very conscientious about abiding by the safety precautions. It's been amazing seeing the whole school community work together to adapt to these unique times.

That being said, it is vital we continue to exercise caution as we enter into the holiday season. Please keep the safety of the school in mind as you make your holiday plans and be sure to notify us of any positive cases, exposures, or concerning symptoms.

We will have school as normal on Monday and Tuesday, and teachers will be sending home projects/assignments for students to work on from home during the week of Nov 30-Dec 4. This is a week of unique "at-home-learning", and your child may need reminders and help to complete these projects/assignments before returning to school.

We wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

Thanks,

Tyler Wriston

Principal

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¹<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02973-3>

²<https://www.10tv.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/kids-should-return-to-classroom-columbus-health-commissioner/530-959d8610-59f3-4846-b1e6-b32a42a7228f>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/22/health/coronavirus-schools-children.html>