

November 9, 2020,

Excelsior Middle School in the Linn-Mar Community School District has had between 15-20 staff members absent over the course of the last two weeks. We currently have 19 staff out due to COVID reasons and 15 of these staff members are certified staff. A majority of these staff members will not be able to return to school for at least another week. We are also awaiting test results on 2 other staff members at Excelsior. We are currently averaging 3 subs per day so that is leaving us with a huge gap to fill on a daily basis. We have pulled staff from other schools, teachers are covering for their colleagues, principals are covering classes and our central office has been covering classrooms. Excelsior currently has their entire PE dept, counseling dept and secretarial staff all on either quarantine or isolation.

We are prepared to move to virtual learning because our staff is currently teaching kids in a hybrid model where $\frac{1}{2}$ of their class is in person and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ is at home where they zoom into the classroom. All of our students have school issued laptops and they have all been provided internet access if they do not already have such access.

We are requesting a move to virtual learning for 10 school days. This will run through Thanksgiving break and give us a chance to get our staff back in place so we can hold school in a safe manner.

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Shannon Bisgard

Linn-Mar Superintendent