

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 11, 2020

Dr. Ann Lebo:

Here's our current **Northeast Elementary** status with those in quarantine, isolation or out waiting for a close contact's test results:

- 10 teachers (out of 35) = 29%
- 6 associates (out of 23) = 26%
- 121 students (out of 401) = 30%
- Number of unfilled positions at the elementary in the last 2 weeks = 31
- Clinton County positivity = 26.2%, Jackson County positivity = 31.1%

As a result, the quality of instruction at the elementary is quite sub par. Administrators and staff are very frustrated with the "product" that's being put out at school right now with so many missing staff and students. Nobody thinks an online learning environment is better than on-site, but the elementary is simply at a point where kids are being underserved every day at school. The majority of elementary special education students are not getting the level of support required by their IEP. This could turn into a legal issue requiring more services with additional costs in the future. Staff are also very worried about their personal health and safety due to possible exposure at school. I've talked with county health officials about our numbers and concerns. Going online for two weeks *might* reduce the spread of the virus and it *might* bring a majority of our students and staff back out of quarantine healthy, but there are no "for sures." Our students have been prepared for a transition to virtual teaching and learning. It has gone very well with those in quarantine or isolation. Going online would give the entire elementary staff a chance to regroup and the ability to continue teaching and collaborating as long as they were healthy enough to do so.

I would only recommend going all-online at Northeast Elementary (PS-5) at this time. Our secondary (6-12) numbers are much better. Timing-wise, I would want to give parents at least one day's notice. We have spent countless hours of admin team time trying to figure out the best way to utilize the resources we have available and came up with some great ideas for a possible move to all online at the elementary. I honestly do not know what our tipping point should be, but the current situation on-site at the elementary is not good for students or staff.

Thank you for your consideration.

NEIL GRAY

Neil Gray
Northeast CSD Superintendent