

A Message From Mr. Mooney

November 19, 2020

Dear Twinfield Families:

I hope all is well with your family. As we all know there has been a significant rise in COVID cases in central Vermont. We continue to work collectively to keep our students safe. I can assure you that the Twinfield staff is united in our efforts to provide a safe learning environment for all students. In many of my correspondences to date I have talked about the need for our staff and students to practice COVID protocols at school and in our extended learning community. A safe community leads to a safe school and a safe school allows us to continue to bring students to campus.

The recent surge in Vermont can be traced to adult behavior at public and private events where social distancing and mask wearing guidelines had been largely ignored. This is concerning from a public health perspective, but my heart goes out to those persons and families who are dealing with these positive cases, no matter how and why it happened. These concerns have led some families to move their children from in-school instruction and/or the hybrid schedule to a fully remote learning schedule.

We have an obligation to meet our students' needs no matter the learning environment families choose. I do need to express that as more students move to remote instruction it is testing our capacity to provide instruction. There could be a slight delay from the time you choose to change your children's learning environment to the time we can get them up to speed with their remote learning cohort. It also could lead to the need to restructure how we are currently providing instruction. For example, we may need to adjust teacher schedules and/or student cohorts to meet the new demands for remote learning. Please understand we are using our resources as creatively as possible and we will continue to reflect and adjust as needed to ensure student academic progress.

However, with the numbers resulting from the current trend of families opting to remove their students from in-person instruction, we are facing the very real possibility of having to shut down in-person instruction for some or all segments (elementary, middle- and high-school) of our school. If this happens, it will be because we can't manage the complexity of running both in-person and remote-learning with the staffing we

have. This is something we have tried hard not to do.

Here at Twinfield our COVID protocols and procedures are working. The community spread in our area is just that -- community spread. Schools continue to be safe and our supervisory union has systems in place to help mitigate the spread of COVID in central Vermont. Again I want to thank all members of our greater community who are working collectively to keep our students safe and our schools open.

Stay safe,
Mark Mooney