



Russell Independent Schools

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Dr. M. SEAN HORNE
Superintendent

January 20, 2022

Russell Family,

A Remind101 message was sent last night closing school for the remainder of the week. I want to explain our decision making in a little more detail this morning. We have had a high rate of COVID-19 cases over the last week. This has impacted our staffing at each of our buildings to the point we had multiple classes with no assigned substitutes. Also, in working with our school nurse, who monitors our students and staff number regularly, we have an unusually high number of student positive cases and quarantines. Based on this information, I made the decision to close school for both COVID-19 complications and inclement weather. Our goal is to begin face-to-face instruction on Monday, January 24th.

I also would like the school community to know that NTI instruction could be an option for our district moving forward. We have missed five days of weather related / COVID-19 days as of today. We will be expected to make up the five days at some point in our school calendar. I want everyone to understand our goal is to have face to face instruction, but in light of recent increases of COVID-19 cases in the schools impacting faculty, staff, and students, NTI could be an option moving forward. I have instructed our administrative staff to begin preparation and instruction for students to prepare for the NTI option, if we need to utilize it in the future.

I will keep everyone posted on future developments as they arise concerning possible school closures and calendar changes. Please contact my office or your child's school for additional information.

Dr. M. Sean Horne
Superintendent
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