

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 676

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Administration

Kevin Ricke, Interim Superintendent & Principal K-12
Stacey Warne, Dean of Students, Assistant Activities Director

Board of Education

Jamie Isane, Chair
Jeremy Swenson, Vice Chair
Carol Rhen, Treasurer
Cari Dostal, Clerk
Jodie Davy, Director
Brent Olson, Director

Our Mission Statement:

The staff at Badger School strives to motivate, challenge, and support one another to create a culture of life-long learning in a safe environment that prepares and empowers all students for an everchanging world.

June 18, 2021

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Dear Families,

The 2021-22 school year at Badger Community will be quickly approaching. The previous 2020-21 school year had many successes despite its challenges. We were successful staying with the In-Person Learning Model for the duration of the academic year because of the carefully planned strategies developed by members of the school district, students and parents. Our communities' resolve, patience and understanding were keys to our successes last year.

We are currently in the process of developing a Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan and Continuity of Services for the upcoming 2021-22 school year, as required under the ESSER III application guidelines for federal grant funding.

At this point, we do not believe that there will be a face covering mandate going into the 2021-22 school year, but we also need to stand ready to make changes as they may or may not happen. Again, ***please continue to contact us directly with your concerns or comments.***

Since March of 2020, the past fifteen months were as much of a challenging time as many of us have ever experienced. We are persevering the coronavirus pandemic and we are stronger today because of it. We believe that one of the most important things to come from this is a renewed spirit continuing to work together striving to make Badger Community School a gem of excellence in northwest Minnesota and for making Badger "the school where every student belongs."

Thank you for all of your dedicated effort and diligence as we continue this journey together.

Kevin Ricke
Superintendent/Principal K-12

Stacey Warne
Dean of Students/Assistant AD

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Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services for 2021-2022

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The Badger Community School will continue to offer In-Person Learning Model to all students, as it did during the previous 2020-2021 academic year. We will continue our efforts to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year by continuing to follow MDE, MDH and CDC requirements as well as collaborating with our local Roseau County LifeCare Public Health Team. As they evaluate the pandemic data and adjust requirements, our plan may also have to adjust to align accordingly.

The district shall continue efforts to keep a high standard of safety and cleanliness to ensure we are able to stay with the In-Person Learning Model for the foreseeable future.

These standards and requirement currently include:

1. Face Coverings: The current requirements make wearing of masks optional. Put it another way, the Badger Community School is not planning to require face coverings for the 2021-22 school year, unless guidance from MDE, MDH and CDC changes.
2. Social Distancing is no longer required in any part of the school building. The Badger Community School does not plan on implementing any restrictions that are not mandated by the federal or state governments.
3. Health Screening: All students and staff are to conduct a daily health self-screen and stay home when necessary (when sick). This is a good general health practice and was instrumental in slowing and preventing the spread of colds, flu's and COVID.
4. Status of close contact quarantining practices following a COVID exposure? Close contact quarantine guidelines are still as before, but we are hopeful for some updated information before school begins. We will continue to work with local public health as needed.
5. Schools continue to be required to report positive COVID test cases to local public health and MDH.

The current State of Minnesota COVID requirements do not require face coverings or vaccinations for the upcoming school year.

We are asking any community members who would like to see changes to this work-in-progress plan to contact the school.

The In-Person Learning Model within the Badger Safe Learning Plans that was previously created for the 2020-21 school year can be used to fulfill this ESSER III federal application requirement, knowing that our plans will likely change based on forthcoming fall 2021 guidance and/or recommendations from MDH, MDE and CDC.

Abbreviations: CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
COVID = 'CO' stands for COrona, 'VI' for VIrus, and 'D' for Disease
ESSER = Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief
MDE = Minnesota Department of Education
MDH = Minnesota Department of Health
'Local Public Health' = Roseau County Public Health/LifeCare Public Health 218-463-2500