

Jay Lebrun

Superintendent of Schools

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January 20, 2021

Dear Hornet community:

As you have likely come to recognize and expect, I endeavor to render a decision each Wednesday about the instructional mode for the subsequent week. Recent and current COVID data in our region remains high. Most notably, the number of new daily infection cases has not abated in this post-holiday period as had been predicted, and concerns about hospital capacity persist. There is one improving metric – that being the release of many faculty/staff members from isolation/quarantine. However, on balance, the COVID-related data remains somewhat ominous. As such, we will extend the current period of remote instruction through next week. The new return-to-hybrid date (which I know we all hope will be possible) is now February 1, 2021.

Naturally, the PSAT test scheduled for January 26, 2021 will be cancelled. Further, looking ahead one additional week, the scheduled early-release day on February 2, 2021 is cancelled so to increase direct instruction time slightly.

I'm sorry that a return to hybrid is not yet advisable. While I'm hopeful that the deployment of vaccines in our area will have a positive impact, I'm simultaneously anxious about the spread of the new, more infectious variant. Like we've all experienced since last Winter, predicting the ebb and flow of the virus and the regional infection rates is very challenging. Really, the only enduring factor in this pandemic is that our social behavior impacts the spread of the virus. To that end, please stay vigilant about gatherings, distancing, and mask wearing, and please be responsive to and compliant with public health officials if you are contacted.

Continued best wishes during this difficult period,

Jay Lebrun