



DISTRICT OFFICE

138 East Wilson Street, Valders, WI 54245
(920) 775-9500 • (920) 775-9509 (fax)
www.valders.k12.wi.us

Debra Hunt, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Special Education Director

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Dear Parents:

This past week has provided an opportunity to review all that has transpired recently. We have been told that Manitowoc County, including our school community within our county is in crisis regarding COVID-19. We have been given many statistics demonstrating high COVID-19 numbers, as well as we have been told resources in our county have the potential to become strained. None of this information is being denied.

However, as other information is considered, it will be noted that the communities that make up the Valders Area School District community comprises approximately 12% to 15% of all Manitowoc County COVID-19 positive cases. That may change as we proceed through the fall, but at this time, we have fewer COVID-19 cases than some other areas within Manitowoc County.

After considering all available information, our focus must be on our school community. Over the past few weeks we have had some students identified as COVID-19 positive or close contacts of someone who has been identified as COVID-19 positive. One reason we have had to move to a virtual platform is that some staff have been sick, injured or have been identified as close contacts and had to self-isolate for 14 days. We appreciate our staff and we cannot be successful without their specific skills and talents. Our students and staff are each important to the success of the district. We need everyone to be as healthy as possible.

We believe that if we proceed cautiously and safely all students who have elected to attend in-person classes may **return** to in-person classes on **Tuesday, October 20**. As a school community we need to work together to follow safe practices such as wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands, and sanitizing surfaces around us to protect our students and staff.

We know that providing a schedule and a sense of normalcy is necessary for children to be successful, and we are looking forward to coming back to a normalcy on Tuesday, October, 20.

Wishing you health and happiness,

Deb Hunt