



Northwest Education Services

Formerly Traverse Bay Area
Intermediate School District

1101 Red Drive
Traverse City
Michigan 49684

231.922.6200 TEL
231.922.6270 FAX
tbaisd.org

April 2, 2021

Dear regional school community,

I hope you all enjoyed some well-deserved time off for spring break and are prepared to make the final push toward summer and another season of graduations. It is an exciting time for our students and families, as well as all school staff who work tirelessly to support academic success throughout the entire year. On behalf of a consortium of area leaders representing the medical, educational, public health and business communities of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties, we would like to welcome everyone back to class as we regroup and focus on achieving our educational goals in the midst of an ongoing public health pandemic.

COVID-19 data continues to be gathered by our regional health experts and the situation remains concerning, with trends similar to what we saw in December 2020. At this point, there has been no decision to transition to distance learning. We will continue with in-person classes as we have been doing, but encourage everyone to double-down on efforts to slow the spread and follow the advice of health care professionals, including those with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

If you have traveled recently, it is crucial to watch for the development of symptoms over the next couple of weeks so that proper steps to protect others can be taken as quickly as possible. Here is some information that may be useful as you return to work or school:

- Closely monitor and screen daily for [COVID-19 symptoms](#); if your child has any symptoms, even mild ones, keep them home
- Follow [MDHHS recommendations](#) for mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing
- Consider other information and steps you can take to protect yourself from COVID-19 through regional resources from [Munson Healthcare](#)

Testing remains a critical component in our collective effort to overcome this pandemic. Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) will host a COVID-19 testing site from noon to 7 p.m. Monday, April 5 at Traverse City Central High School, 1150 Milliken Drive. The service is available at no cost to anyone in the community, not just TCAPS students, families and employees. The site entrance will be in the central parking lot in front of the gymnasium, located along Eastern Avenue. Pre-registration is available [online](#), but people can register on-site as well. [Visit TCAPS's website for more information.](#)

If you are unable to attend this event, we encourage you to contact your local health department about COVID-19 testing or vaccination opportunities available to you:

- [Health Department of Northwest Michigan](#) (Antrim County), 1-800-432-4121
- [Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department](#), 231-256-0219
- [Grand Traverse County Health Department](#), or [schedule a COVID-19 test directly online](#)
- [District Health Department #10](#) (Kalkaska County), 231-258-8669

Our priority continues to be the health and safety of our students, families and employees. We are committed to preserving in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities, which are a high priority for many families and serve as an excellent supplement to the education gained in the classroom. There is great value in the lessons learned on the field or the court, but an entire team – or that team's entire season – may be

jeopardized by just a single student who exhibits symptoms and attends school and practice. Moreover, the fellow classmates, teachers, administrators, support staff and others who interact with that student during the school day are likewise put at risk.

We ask everyone to consider the big picture when faced with a decision involving the status of their own health, or their child's, and the health of those in our school communities. Even something as trivial as a runny nose may be reason enough to stay home.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this challenging time. By working together, we can ensure the safety of our school community and provide an outstanding educational experience for our students.

Respectfully,

Nick Ceglarek, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Northwest Education Services
(formerly Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District)

Supported by:

Regional Health Officers

Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and Health Department of Northwest MI

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and Health Department of Northwest MI

Kevin Hughes, District Health Department #10 Health Officer

Wendy Hirschenberger, Grand Traverse County Health Department Health Officer

Dr. Michael Collins, Grand Traverse County Health Department Medical Director

Dr. Christine Nefcy, Munson Healthcare Chief Medical Officer

Regional School Leadership

Rich Satterlee, Alba Public School Superintendent

Mark Brenton, Bellaire Public Schools Superintendent

Amiee Erfourth, Benzie County Central Schools Superintendent

Jessica Harrand, Buckley Community Schools Superintendent

Mike Hill, Crawford School - Excelsior District #1 Superintendent

Julie Brown, Elk Rapids Public School Superintendent

Josh Rothwell, Forest Area Community Schools Superintendent

Jeff Tousley, Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools Superintendent

Jon Hoover, Glen Lake Community Schools Superintendent

Jim Coneset, Grand Traverse Academy Superintendent

Mike Buell, Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools Superintendent

Dr. Robert Walker, Greenspire School Head of School/Superintendent

Trey Devey, Interlochen Center for the Arts President

Terry Starr, Kalkaska Public Schools Superintendent

Dr. Keith Smith, Kingsley Area Schools Superintendent
Arden Wilson, Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy Head of School
Stephanie Long, Leland Public Schools Superintendent
Jeff DiRosa, Mancelona Public Schools Superintendent
Darci Long, North Central Academy Principal
Neil Wetherbee, Northport Public Schools Superintendent
Renee Kolle and Danielle Clayton, Old Mission Peninsula School Principals
Lisa Medina, St. Mary Hannah School Principal
Megan Glynn, St. Mary Lake Leelanau Catholic School Principal
Casey Petz, Suttons Bay Public Schools Superintendent
Michele Shane, The Children's House Head of School
Rob Hansen, The Leelanau School Head of School
Jill Vignski, The Pathfinder School Head of School
Dr. John VanWagoner, Traverse City Area Public Schools Superintendent
Tyler VanSchepen, Traverse City Christian School Superintendent
Kyle Smith, Trinity Lutheran School
Jeremiah Stieve, Woodland School Director