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Superintendent

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September 10, 2020

Belle Valley Families:

As you may know, on August 7, 2020 the Illinois Department of Public Health strongly recommended that St. Clair County Schools begin the school year remotely. This strong recommendation was the result of a high COVID-19 positivity rate in our area, and Belle Valley School, along with most of the public schools in the county, followed that strong recommendation and began the year remotely.

Earlier this week, the area superintendents were invited to a Google meeting with the IDPH and Regional Office of Education. During that meeting we were told the IDPH is now supporting local control for transitioning back to in-person learning.

Our District, in cooperation with the St. Clair County Health Department and the Regional Office of Education, is developing a phased transition plan for the return to in-person instruction. That plan will be shared with everyone on Wednesday, September 16.

It is important to note that students who selected the fully remote option at the beginning of the school year will continue in that learning format. It's also important to note that remote learning may be a necessary part of student learning for the foreseeable future. At this time the transition plan will apply **only** to those students whose parents chose in-person learning at the start of the school year. **We ask parents who chose in-person learning to please fill out the short survey you will soon be receiving.**

Belle Valley School District is committed to serving our students in an environment that is safe for students and staff. We feel that a gradual transition back to in-person learning affords us the best safety margin, while providing the highest probability for success. We are confident in our current COVID-19 mitigation plan for its emphasis on social distancing, the wearing of masks, clean hands, and increased cleaning and sanitizing.

We look forward to welcoming those students that chose in-person learning to the safest possible school environment, while still offering a full remote option for those that did not.

Thank you for your continued support! The environment we are currently operating under is ever-changing. Our faculty and staff appreciates your engagement and patience as we try our very best to serve our students.

Respectfully,
R.Dane Gale
Superintendent