



HASTINGS AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Web Site: www.hassk12.org

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December 21, 2020

Dear Saxons,

Making sure our students and staff are safe is our number one priority. We also understand that having our students in face-to-face learning is the best possible education we can provide. We make decisions based on constant guidance from the Health Department, human resource capacity at any given point in time, and considering many other variables to best serve the needs of our students. We evaluate these variables daily, and if we can adjust our plan to benefit students, we believe it is our duty to be flexible enough to do so to best meet their needs.

Having taken these variables into consideration, Hastings Area School System has made the decision to start all K-12 face-to-face, virtual, and online instruction on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, for the start of the second semester. Below are the reasons for this change:

- In person learning is better for our kids, and if we can adjust our schedule to accommodate that we should under the guidelines from the Health Department.
- COVID positivity rates in Barry County, and within our school boundaries have been trending down over the past two to three weeks.
- Our staff is healthy, and we have the human resource capacity to instruct for face-to-face learning.
- The January 6, 2021 start date for all would assist with consistency for a second semester start date, would provide staff two days (January 4 & 5) to prepare outside of their well-deserved break, and a Wednesday start date is the beginning of the attendance week.

We wanted to get this information out to you now, so you can plan accordingly for a positive start to the second semester. As we have learned, anything is possible with COVID during this pandemic, however we believe that at this time, given the information we have, starting on January 6, 2021 best serves the needs of our students.

Thank you for your continued support, flexibility, and understanding through these times. We hope you have a wonderful Holiday season, and please be safe.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Goebel
Interim Superintendent
Hastings Area School System