September 16, 2020

Dear Albion Parents/Guardians

The start to the 2020-21 school year has certainly been a challenge but has gone well so far. It has been wonderful to see and hear students once again on campus. It has been far too long since they have been able to use our facilities. Thank you very much for preparing your children well for what they would face whether in the hybrid format or the remote environment. Thanks also for your patience as we have been adjusting to the new processes that we have in place to welcome your children and to keep them safe. We have found and will likely continue to find some pieces of the plan that need to be adjusted but you and your children have been great to work with and very understanding of the circumstances we are dealing with. I have a few update areas for you:

COVID Symptoms

As of this writing, the State Health Department continues to require us to react to students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID by keeping them home until we have a note from their medical provider and a negative COVID test along with no symptoms. The same holds true if the student stays home with those symptoms. We are required by the Health Department to have both the note from the doctor and the negative COVID test whenever we either notice or it is reported that staff or students have COVID symptoms which include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. We will update you if there is any change, but this is the process that we are required to use.

Athletics/Extracurricular Activities

Soccer, Golf, and Cross Country have been given the go ahead by the state to resume this fall starting on September 21st. Albion will be providing teams at the JV and Varsity level. Due to the hybrid nature of our program, we determined that it would be better for our students and their families to hold intramurals at the modified (7th and 8th) level instead of interscholastic sports. We do not want to put parents of our Middle School students in the position of having to get students that are home three days per week to the campus each day for practice or contests and felt we could provide an opportunity for those students to learn some skills and have fun after school on the two days that they are here; if they want to. We will plan to start these intramurals once we get through the first few weeks of school. Our remote only students will be welcome to join in these intramurals as well. As soon as a schedule gets put together, we will distribute it to all Middle School students. Remote only families can check in with the Athletic Director to be assigned to attend on a particular day.

If other extracurricular activities are able to take place in a format which allows for social distancing and face coverings, then our staff will work to get those up and running. We want to offer as much of the program as possible while keeping student and staff safety our highest priority.

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Remote Learning

Our teachers are continuing to learn more about how to engage learners in a remote manner and will continue to improve in this work as the year goes on. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the building principal if you have any questions or concerns regarding the instruction your child is receiving.

Finally, I want to thank you for your patience as we have worked our way into the school year. We realize that because of the nature of the impact of the virus, we were not able to get plans to you until late in the summer. We are appreciative that you took the time to ask questions and assist us as the school year has gotten underway. Because of the input of our parents and our staff, our plans have improved as the days have gone by and will continue to improve as the school year progresses.

Sincerely,

Scott Bischoping
Interim Superintendent