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Dear Career and Success Academy Family,

The rates of positive COVID-19 cases in our community have been steadily on the rise for several weeks. This afternoon, the St. Joseph County Department of Health (SJCDH) issued guidance regarding this trend. Their statement can be found [here](#).

**In response to their recommendations, Career Academy Middle and High School will return to 100% virtual learning. Success Academy will continue with their existing schedule of in-person learning Monday through Thursday, with Friday's being virtual.**

The decision to keep Success Academy in-person was twofold. First, K-5 students are at a higher academic risk than their middle and high school counterparts when attending virtually. Second, transmission rates have proven to be lower between younger children. This has been illustrated by our own experience since returning to in-person instruction with 1 staff member and 2 students testing positive at Success as opposed to 6 staff members and 11 students at Career.

**Career Academy Middle and High School will make the transition to 100% virtual instruction after Thanksgiving break, beginning Monday, November 30th.** Our intent is to return to hybrid instruction on Tuesday, January 5th pending state and local health department recommendations.

The only exception will be for certain Special Education and CTE students. Select students in our Special Education programs will be able to attend in-person for specialized services. Families will be contacted on a case by case basis by the Special Education department. CTE students and parents will be contacted by their principal with additional details regarding in-person learning.

Food service will continue after Thanksgiving break. Details regarding meal distribution will be sent out soon. Athletics will also continue practicing and playing games while following the established COVID protocols. CASB athletes will be allowed 2 spectators per athlete at home games.

Career Academy will remain operating on the same bell schedule used since hybrid instruction began. The day will start with advisory at 8:00 am. 1st or 5th period, depending on the day, will follow at 8:20. Students will follow their schedule with the school day ending at 3:55. Principals will send detailed bell schedules to families by the end of the week.

Students who will be in-person tomorrow (11/19) have been asked to take home all personal items. For those students who are unable to do so, they are able to contact the front office to arrange pickup on Friday, November 20th.

If a middle or high school student tests positive for COVID during this time of virtual learning, we are still asking parents and guardians to report these cases to us. We will continue to report these positive COVID-19 cases to the [Indiana State Department of Health Dashboard](#). We have also developed our own COVID-19 Dashboard that can be accessed [here](#).

We recognize these changes are challenging and feel fortunate to have such an incredible team of teachers, staff and administrators who continue to persevere and provide an exceptional educational experience during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for your understanding.

Alex Hammel  
*Superintendent*