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# FRESHWATER

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SUPERINTENDENT SI TALTY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES:  
REBECCA BAUGH  
MICHELLE COLLINS  
AUDREY DIEKER  
GREG HALL  
GRETCHEN MILLER



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## ELEMENTARY AND CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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November 20, 2020

Dear Freshwater Families,

I want to begin by thanking all of you for making time to connect with your child(ren)s teacher(s) this past week to check in and get an update on academic progress. This trimester of Distance Learning has been challenging for all of us and I truly appreciate your willingness to partner with us to provide the best education we can while faced with the challenges of this pandemic.

As most of you are aware our Humboldt County COVID-19 numbers are unfortunately continuing to rise. On Monday we moved from the Yellow Tier 4 (minimal risk) to the Red Tier 2 (substantial community risk) on the Humboldt County COVID-19 dashboard, which is a metric we use to help guide decisions about when to open school for In-person instruction. In addition, on Tuesday, Humboldt County Public Health Officer, Teresa Frankovich, issued the following recommendation to all Humboldt County Schools:

*“At this time, Humboldt County Public Health is strongly recommending that schools move to distance learning for the 14 day period following the Thanksgiving holiday. Although schools have done a remarkable job of implementing preventive measures to promote safety in on-site education, we anticipate a marked increase in local infections due to travel and gatherings occurring around Thanksgiving. This would threaten rapid identification and containment of cases, leading to increased transmission in the school setting.”*

Based on this recommendation from Public Health, the Freshwater School Board voted last night to begin In-person instruction for all students on January 19, 2021. This serves as a reminder that this pandemic continues to be a fluid situation, and we will continue to prioritize the safety of our community as our local conditions change and we adjust our plans for a safe return to In-person instruction. We appreciate your understanding and support during this unpredictable time.

It is my hope that our community makes responsible choices this holiday season in regards to traveling and gathering so that our COVID-19 risk level is lowered to allow our reopening plans in January to stay on track. Please remember that we can all do our part to take care of ourselves, each other, and our campus by modeling social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, and limiting travel/gatherings during the holidays. If you do travel please follow the updated guidance that was released to Humboldt County residents this week. Click [Here](#)

I hope that this holiday season brings your family health and happiness despite the difficulties we are facing with this pandemic. On behalf of our staff and school board, we are all grateful to serve our Freshwater families and the entire Freshwater community. Thank you for your continued support!

Warmly,

Si Talty, Superintendent

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