

Update 12/5/2021

I hope you all had a relaxing week over Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with loved ones. As we head into the last stretch before winter break, I wanted to share some information with you.

Inclement Weather

The document the district sent on December 2nd is a result of discussions the OEA had with the district.

Last year, the OEA conducted several surveys and shared your input with the district. As you may recall, we asked you to report:

- the number of students who logged on
- the number who were engaged
- number and type of interruptions to instruction
- number and type of technology issues

We presented this data last year in discussions about remote learning days with OPS Human Resources and Curriculum and Instruction. We revisited this data in this year's discussions with the district in three meetings with Human Resources and Curriculum and Instruction.

In these meetings, the OEA asked:

- first and foremost, for the return to the normal snow days. The district rejected this request.
- that the district offer completely asynchronous learning on inclement weather days. The district rejected this request, adding that asynchronous learning is "too much work" for teachers.
- that all instruction on snow days be used for lessons involving Social Emotional (SEL) learning. This request was rejected.
- for cycle days to be followed in elementary and block days to be followed for secondary.
- that specials be added to the elementary schedule. The district rejected this request adding that the focus would be on ELA and Math only, with specialists assisting in virtual classrooms.
- that the length of instructional time and required office hours be lessened in favor of more plan time.
- that the Central High schedule be adjusted from 10 minute classes to 20 minute classes. The district adjusted Central's schedule.
- After reviewing the district's revisions to the inclement weather plan, the OEA asked that language be added allowing staff the option for asynchronous lessons.

The district's final plan:

- added optional asynchronous language
- eliminated cycle days for elementary with specialists assigned to various classrooms
- lessened instructional time to allow for more plan time
- maintained designated "block day"
- adjusted Central High's schedule

Safety Concerns Next Steps at BoE

Thanks to those who attended the November 15th Board of Education meeting to hear your colleagues discuss safety, staffing concerns and what is best for kids. Please mark your calendar to join us in filling the Board room on Monday, December 13th. We will again have several speakers and need you to show your support. Please arrive no later than 6:25. We will leave the board meeting at the conclusion of public comment. We need your help to fill the board room. Our schools need to be safe spaces for staff to teach and students to achieve.

NewGEN Event

Educators new to the profession – we hope your invites for the NewGEN event next week made it to your school mailboxes! If you joined the profession or the district within the last 7 years, we invite you to join us for an ugly sweater contest and informal conversation on Monday, December 6. More details and RSVP here: <u>https://forms.gle/tKxfE2y2wVRRbgfS9</u>

Information on COVID and Booster

Eligibility for a Booster:

- Individuals are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series of Moderna or Pfizer.
- Individuals are eligible for a booster shot at 2 months or more after their initial Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Charles Drew Health Center

Available Vaccines:

- Pfizer (Adults and children 5 years and older)
- Moderna (18 years and older)
- Influenza (flu) vaccine

Dates: Friday, Dec. 10, 2021 and Friday, Dec. 17, 2021 Time: 3 – 7 p.m.

Location:

Omaha Home for Boys

5190 Sprague Plaza Wurderman Learning Center- 2nd floor

What to Bring:

- 1. Completed <u>COVID Consent Form</u> (copies will also be available on-site)
- 2. COVID Vaccination Identification Card (replacement cards can be obtained on the DCHD website)
- 3. Insurance card (vaccine is free of charge)

Staff are encouraged to register for an appointment by calling (402) 451-3553 and select option 2 after language selection. Inform the scheduler that you are an OPS staff member. Walk-ins are welcome.

One World Community Health Center

Available Vaccines: Moderna (18 years and older) Dates: Friday, Dec. 3, 2021 and Friday Dec. 17, 2021 Time: 3 – 5 p.m.

Locations: Liberty Elementary 2021 St. Mary's Ave. (402) 505-8180

Bryan High 4700 Giles Rd. (402) 991-3904 Staff are encouraged to register for an appointment using the links below. Walk-ins are welcome.

Dec. 17: <u>Liberty Elementary Sign-Up</u> <u>Bryan High Sign-Up</u>

Additional Offerings:

One World Livestock Exchange Campus 4920 S. 30th Street, Omaha, NE 68107 The vaccine tent is located on the east side of the campus across 30th Street.

Available Vaccines:

- Pfizer (Adults and children 5 years and older)
- Moderna (18 years and older)

Days and Times:

- Fridays 9 a.m. 5:20 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. 12:20 p.m. (Moderna)
- Fridays 9 a.m. 5:20 p.m. and the first and third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. 12 p.m. (Pfizer 12 years and older)
- Fridays 9 a.m. 5:20 p.m. and second and fourth Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. 12 p.m. (Pfizer 5-11 years old)

In addition to the above offerings, the Douglas County Health Department is offering various clinics throughout the metro area. Please <u>visit the Douglas</u> County Health Department website for more information.

Be well,

Robert OEA President

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