



Script of Dr. Block's Oct. 23, 2020 Video Message

Hello Livingston Public Schools Community, this is Matt Block, Superintendent of Schools.

This is a very sad time in the Livingston Public Schools. I send my condolences to the entire community on the loss of one of our Livingston High School students yesterday. While I know we are all grieving at this sad time, I want to thank the high school administration and the Livingston Public Schools Counseling Department for all of their efforts to support our students, staff, and families as we struggle with this loss. We are so fortunate to have such a caring and dedicated team to assist us at this difficult time. Of course our sympathies go out to the student's family and friends as we keep them in our hearts and in our thoughts.

As you know our grades 7-12 students will be transitioning to in-person hybrid learning at Heritage Middle School, and Livingston High School on this coming Monday, October 26th. We are excited to see our students on Monday. We are very encouraged by our five weeks of in-person learning at the elementary schools, and coming off of a very successful first week of in-person learning at Mount Pleasant Middle.

When I put forth Monday's date to open HMS and LHS several weeks ago, I expressed concerns that our staffing challenges might be too difficult to overcome. It has been an extraordinary challenge ensuring that all of our classes are properly supervised, and that we have secured excellent instructors for every class. It is important for the community to know that we still have many teachers who are unable to be in our schools in person for various reasons. Those who can be in person will be helping to provide supervision and instruction in classes where other teachers cannot be present. I want to recognize our staff members who are already working incredibly hard in a new paradigm, who are about to take on these additional responsibilities. We have hired some new staff, with the LEA's support we have asked staff members to do more, and we have maximized our human resources. Only through these actions have we been able to reach our goal of opening our secondary schools. Even as we work to solidify our staffing, the temporary closures happening in other school districts, quarantines due to positive COVID cases, and other illnesses and leaves, continue to impact our operations. This is a moving target, and on an ongoing basis we will continue doing everything we can to address any staffing issues that may arise. Our families must know that, while we are so proud that we are ready to open our facilities, the current situation is tenuous and requires that the puzzle pieces remain in place.

Never before has it been so important for all members of our community to make healthy decisions so that we are able to continue providing in-person instruction in the Livingston Public Schools. Please, help us ensure that all of this work and preparation will allow in-person instruction to continue long term by doing your part to keep Livingston safe and healthy.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

Thank you.