



LOSTANT COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 425

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August 31, 2021

Lostant Parents and Guardians,

This letter is being sent to address three emails I received last Thursday regarding heat related school days. The overall concern the parents had was the temperature inside the school building and mask wearing during the hot days. Below is a list of interventions we prepared over the summer, in the event the first few days of school were extreme heat days. These interventions were conducted the entire week of August 23rd.

1. All water fountains with the exception of one were outfitted over the summer with water bottle filtration systems.
2. The regular schedule was altered so that students were not seated in classrooms all day.
3. The alternate schedule reflected the following,
 - a. During the morning students rotated between testing sessions. Whenever possible, these sessions were conducted in the air conditioned computer lab, office, or staff lunch room.
 - b. During the afternoon session students rotated between art (taught outdoors under the tree for shade and mask free); music (taught in the bus garage in the shade and mask free), or play time (outdoors where students could be mask free, play on equipment, sit on the benches, or sit in the shade). The only time students were asked to keep a mask on is if they choose to sit or play within arms length of a friend.
 - c. Students were taken to the water fountains throughout the day to fill their water bottles. Students were also allowed to fill their water bottles upon request.
 - d. Bathroom breaks were planned and allowed upon request.
 - e. If a student stated he or she was too hot or an adult noticed a student looked too hot, the student was sent to the office to cool down. Mrs. Goddard stayed with these students until they returned to the planned activity.

Lostant School rarely closes school or releases early due to heat or cold. Historically we close school when rural road conditions are too hazardous for buses. Past Lostant Board of Education's have held fast to the belief that it is difficult for many of our families to secure day care if we have late starts, early releases, or school closure. Therefore, our past practice has been to stay open for those families who need or want to send their children to school. In order to meet the needs of all of our families the Board of Education has a clause outlined in the Handbook that parents may use whenever they believe a condition exists that warrants keeping their children home. Under Excused Absences the language reads:

Situations beyond the control of the student,

- Up to 5 days per school year.

Circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's safety or health.

Please contact me if you have additional questions or concerns. I will forward your concern to Mrs. Goddard for the Handbook Committee who will meet in the spring. You may also join the Handbook Committee. Please contact Mrs. Goddard so that she may place your name on the committee list.

Educationally yours,
Dr. Sandra Malahy
Superintendent

...where all students are given the opportunity to reach their highest potential.