



Family Communication #55

February 26, 2021

Greetings from the St. Francis School District,

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to attend the [Deer Creek Intermediate Showcase](#). Amazing high engagement and energy by our staff and students. Great things are happening throughout the School District; here are some other points of pride including last week's Willow Glen Showcase - [Presentation](#) and [SFHS in the 80's](#). Thank you, Doug Sarver for organizing the photos. There are other picture shows for the 60's and 70's on the [SFSD District Facebook](#).

Our Final District Showcase on In-Person Learning and Celebrations is Wednesday, March 3 featuring the St. Francis High School. In St. Francis, we have a lot to be proud about. Join us to learn more about the School District by attending one or more of the District Showcases - [Join via Zoom](#): **Meeting ID:** 860 2070 3597 / **Passcode:** YK84Bu

In March, we will be offering [building tours](#) to share why we have proposed both an operational and capital referendum for the April 6 Ballot. We will send out a registration form next week and/or contact information if you are interested in tours. They will be scheduled for March 11 and March 25 at 7 PM. Stay tuned for more information in the next week's Family Communication.

Lastly, as required by the US Department of Education, Spring is a time when standardized testing occurs. Please monitor messages from your child's Principal. Due to the Pandemic, the test window has been expanded.

Be well,

Dr. Mark Elworthy

Return to In-Person Reminders. Please watch for building-specific reminders. Thank you to all of the staff and building secretaries who contributed to us preparing for students being in the building on February 1. Below are three reminders for families:

- [Help Keep Our Doors Open](#)
- [Home Screening Tool - Complete Every Morning](#)
- [Steps After Reporting an Illness](#)

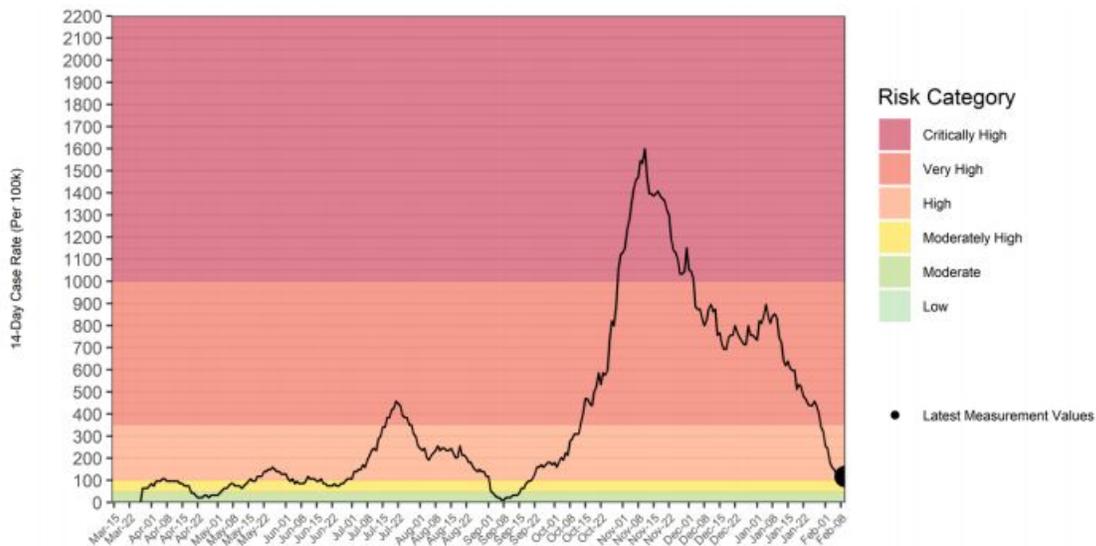
Food Service Update. Meals are available for pick-up every day from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the St. Francis High School, including the virtual day on Wednesday. Weekend meals will continue to be offered during lunch pickup on Friday.

Weekend Meal Sign-Up. We are now offering a weekend meal sign up for in-person students at Willow Glen and Deer Creek. Weekend meals will be made available for students to take home after their last class on Friday. You must sign-up each week by Monday to take advantage of this program. Instructions on how to sign up were sent with your Building Principal's weekly newsletter. [Link for weekend meal sign up for in-person students.](#)

Health Update for the City of St. Francis - The rate of infection continues to trend downward. The downward trend has been a collective effort by everyone by following three important mitigation strategies: wearing a mask, frequent hand washing, and social distancing.

Risk Plot for jurisdiction(s): Saint Francis

The latest 14-day value is: 117.26 (see dot at end), on February 9, 2021



Dashboard for Health Updates

- [St. Francis SD - COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Dashboard for School District](#)



Recorded Referendum

Presentation - If you have not been able to attend our Informational Referendum Meetings, here is a [narrated presentation](#).

Referendum Presentations

- There will be two referendum questions on the April 6 Ballot. Learn more by

attending one of the District Engagement Sessions (starting at 7:30 PM) on March 8 and March 22. These presentations will be virtual. More information is available on the [District website](#).

- [Flyer](#)
- [Join via Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 833 0141 1221 / Passcode: vB0QCA

Letter about the Referendum from Nic Banach, School Board Member

February 25, 2021

My name is Nic Banach and I have served on the St. Francis School Board for the past two years in addition to being involved in several SFSD parent/student- and community-sponsored organizations. When I graduated from high school in 1993, I went to college because it was the path that I knew was expected of me. Academically, I was fully prepared for my freshman year of college; what I was not very well prepared for were the people I would meet in the larger world. Wide-eyed, amazed, and distracted, I struggled to attend classes and embrace the college experience in front of me. I failed and dropped out with a large amount of debt and no degree. I did finally graduate in 2009, and have enjoyed a wonderful career at Northwestern Mutual for the past 11 years.

When I moved to the City of St. Francis in 2005, I could have moved anywhere. I had a list of criteria that had to be met. At the top of that list was a strong school district that embraced diversity of instruction focused on preparing students for life. I found that here in St. Francis. The mix of students both moving onto college and into the workforce after high school graduation means that these students are provided the opportunity to move into the life they are ready for without reservation. Having more examples of how a life may be fulfilling is what drew me here.

This mix of opportunities for our students is still alive and well today. What exists in our students that I didn't know then, was a pride of this city and confidence that comes with that

stride to move forward, challenging themselves to become better. This is a mindset that is more likely to lead to success, regardless of the path a student chooses to take after high school.

There are, however, challenges facing the District. The world is evolving at a very rapid pace, and the skills needed to embrace the larger world are evolving with it. The need to update our facilities to meet the educational needs now and for tomorrow is here today. The capital referendum has been assembled with these challenges in mind and meets them head-on. By creating more collaborative spaces, our students will have the experience of what their post-high school experience is more likely to be. By updating the common areas like the Deer Creek cafeteria and gyms/multi-purpose rooms at Willow Glen and Deer Creek, we will have more flexibility as to how the buildings operate. In addition, they become more welcoming to the general public for both school and community activities. By addressing ADA accessibility, we embrace more equal opportunities and our students become better prepared to navigate the landscape of diversity that will exist in their adult lives.

In addition to the facilities, there are financial constraints on our District to provide excellence in instruction. The operational referendum fills a very real gap that will exist until the capital referendum construction can be completed, and some of those efficiencies in that project can be realized.

The referendum questions work together to provide specific, targeted needs in our District. They are needed to repair what needs fixing, and provide opportunities for flexibility for the students of tomorrow.

The City of St. Francis is a special place. St. Francis is geographically advantaged by the beautiful lakefront, and has convenient access to the opportunities in our surrounding communities. It is also unique in that this city is largely residential. Thinking of other communities that have very large businesses and corporations to provide support, St. Francis residents rely on each other to uplift all of our lives. This is evident in our festivals and day-to-day interactions. When I moved to this city, my neighbors quickly welcomed my family and we have developed great relationships. This is a special place.

At the center of support for our city is the support provided to the children of this District. As you consider your support for the referendum questions in April, please take the time to consider what these dollars are intended to do and how those dollars support more than students. Consider how these dollars support the future of this fantastic city.

For those who question why we should support a school system that relies heavily on Open Enrollment students coming into the District, I will offer up two reasons. First, these students who come to our District from outside communities are state funded; resulting in additional operating dollars (income for the District) . Being a District that receives more enrollment *into* our District than students enrolling *out* of our District is evidence that we are seen as a better opportunity and are doing great work. Second, all of the extra things like sports teams, band, or robotics and chess clubs require a critical mass of students to draw on to keep these

opportunities viable. These students who are coming into our District are materially bringing up the academic experience for all of the students our district serves. Not only is our enrollment in evidence of good work, it is essential to keep that good work going. Without them, we would likely lose many of these opportunities.

With love and respect for all of my neighbors,

Nic Banach
Board Member
St. Francis School District

YMCA Childcare - Before and After School Care is provided at Deer Creek Intermediate School and Willow Glen Primary School by the YMCA of Metro Milwaukee and All-Day Care on Wednesdays at Deer Creek Intermediate Recreation Center. *For Program Information: Contact Director Mary Lewandowski 414-375-1912 (or) mlewandowski@ymcamke.org*