Hello APW parents and staff,

I hope you are all enjoying the holiday break from school. I am looking forward to the New Year bringing us positive changes for our families and students; particularly a chance to all come together to celebrate our students, whether it be in athletics, on stage or in the classroom.

There are many news reports from various sources this week revolving around testing of students, early release from quarantine for essential workers and at-home tests being sent to families from school districts.

I have been working closely with other Oswego County Superintendents to plan for the implementation regarding these initiatives we have just received. As of today, here is what I know:

We have not received COVID rapid tests from NYS or Oswego County to send home to you. When we do receive these tests, APW will not be sending the tests home with students. We will coordinate a time and date(s) for parents to pick up tests at the district for home use. The testing kits contains materials which we do not want to put in the hands of our curious, young students.

As you know, many students have been quarantined in the past few months due to coming in close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID. Gov. Hochul has announced a Test-to-Stay in school option for school districts. The Test-to-Stay in school gives districts the ability to test a student who would normally be quarantined due to exposure. A negative result would allow the student to attend school on that testing day. As of today, due to lack of testing materials and the need for coordination of protocols, the Oswego County Health Department is unable to give districts the go-ahead to use the Test-to-Stay in school option yet.

Keeping our school district open for in-person instruction is one of our biggest priorities. Having enough staff available to transport, teach, feed and supervise students has been a difficult task for all school districts due to isolation and quarantine orders. At this point, we are reviewing the NYS Dept. of Health and the CDC’s recommendation for a five (5) day quarantine for essential workers, which include APW faculty and staff members, and will implement with quarantined staff on a case by case basis.

I will keep you informed as things change and the above initiatives can be put into place. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. I am out of the district until Jan. 3, 2022. Until the 3rd, email will be the quickest way to contact me. lhone@apw.cnyric.org

Thank you for your continued support of our staff and students as we maneuver through this unprecedented time of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Lynn K. Rhone, Superintendent