

Dear FIT Parents,

On Tuesday of this week, FIT Academy leadership met with representatives of our Regional COVID Planning Team. This team includes a Dakota county health representative, a state epidemiologist, and a representative from the Minnesota Department of Education.

During this meeting, we discussed all considerations and options related to schooling for students in grades K-5 during the pandemic including the importance of maintaining an onsite experience. We also discussed the surge in case rate in Dakota County. The regional team informed us that based on the latest directives from the Governor's office, the final decision rests with the school. The regional team also painted a picture for us that made it clear that the recommended decision is to move the K-5 to distance learning. They also informed us that what we are experiencing in Dakota County is not a spike in infections but rather a surge that is likely to carry through the holidays. We presented many different scenarios and they all led to the same conclusion. Our infection rate last week was 49 and is projected to be in the 80's this week and above 100 next week.

Our school board discussed all of this at our meeting this evening including the regional team's recommendations, decisions made by surrounding districts, as well as feedback received from staff and families. **Following this discussion, the board voted to move K-5 to distance learning beginning the week of November 30th through the end of December.** This decision is to be reviewed at our December 16 board meeting for the start of the 2021 calendar year. This does not change any of the current plans for our secondary program in grades 6-11.

We understand that this will be disappointing to students and concerning and challenging for parents. We too are concerned with extending the isolation and time away from school. However, in the end, we chose to heed to advice of health professionals in mitigating risk to our students, staff, and families. While we respect that some families will not agree with this decision, we ask you to respect the process by which the decision was made and our goal of ensuring the wellbeing of everyone in our school community.

Please note the following important information in planning for transition:

- Next week will proceed as scheduled including Wednesday enrichment

- Monday Nov. 30 through Wednesday December 2 will be staff planning days with no student contact for grades K-5
- Grades K-5 will begin distance learning on Thursday December 3
- Your teachers will email additional information and a schedule beginning next Wednesday

We will continue to offer daycare during school hours for families of Tier I essential workers who do not have the option of working from home. [For additional information and to apply please visit this link.](#)

We thank you for your understanding and wish you well. Together, we will get through this