

The past two weeks have been filled with uncertainty, changes to normal routines, and news headlines dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. Phrases such as social distancing, flattening the curve, and now Safer at Home are becoming common in our vocabulary.

I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to all doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers who have been working tirelessly to assist those in need of medical assistance. The Red Cross has a critical need for blood. There are several blood drives in the area and specific dates and times can be found at the Red Cross website. I would encourage all residents to consider donating blood if you're able.

The past two weeks have felt more like months with the number of decisions being made at the district level, continuously changing plans, and providing regular communication updates for our staff and families. Below is a letter I sent to parents and staff last week which captured some of my feelings in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Please be safe and together we will help one another to get through this time of uncertainty.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to take the time to express my most sincere debt of gratitude to each of you for the incredible patience and understanding you've demonstrated this past week. I cannot fully comprehend the challenges and stress this time of uncertainty creates for you and your family. I have never used the word "unprecedented" so much as I have lately, however I'm not sure of another word which describes what we are all experiencing. This is a once in a lifetime event that we will get through together, and hopefully never experience again.

While there have been many decisions the past two weeks that required a rapid response, and the situation is fluid and ever changing, this is not what has been most challenging for me. What keeps me up at night is knowing the level of stress this situation creates for children, our families, and our staff: Managing childcare arrangements, feeding children, making work arrangements, taking time off work, kids having no closure prior to the extended time off, and the uncertainty of the full impact of the coronavirus. None of this is familiar or easy, yet we all are responding the best we know how. At times, it is difficult to grasp the full magnitude of this situation.

I am truly blessed to be surrounded by so many caring individuals that have continuously expressed an interest to help in some way. I am proud of our staff for reaching out to families during this time of uncertainty, assisting with serving meals daily to children, and expressing a desire to do whatever is needed to help our children and families.

I appreciate your understanding that there is no play book to follow regarding this evolving situation. I am in contact daily with superintendents in Dane County and Rock County, as well

as the Public Health Department. We are all sharing ideas and doing the best we can to navigate this situation and meet the needs of our students, staff, and families. We've learned the only thing we can truly predict is to expect things to constantly change, and anticipate that whatever plan we have today will likely be revised and adjusted in the future.

During the upcoming days, weeks, and months ahead please be kind to yourself knowing that you're doing the best you can given this unprecedented situation. Edgerton is a community like no other, with a level of generosity second to none. I have no doubt we will collectively work together and help one another during this challenging and unprecedented time.

Please contact me if you have any questions or are in need of any assistance.

*Dr. Pauli
Edgerton School District Superintendent*