



SPIRIT LAKE SCHOOLS

From the desk of: *Dr. David Smith, Superintendent*

September 17, 2021

Positive Start

It has been a fantastic start to the 2021-22 school year! Our students are all back together on one campus and we are excited about the educational opportunities and life skills preparation that is happening within our district.

Covid Update

During Covid, the district's priority has been to meet the diverse educational needs of our students and families, while maintaining in-person learning. Therefore, we continue our district mitigation efforts of:

- Keeping sick students/staff home
- Regular hand washing and sanitation measures
- Spacing where possible
- Notification of exposure or potential exposure
- Request for symptom monitoring

Elementary

The elementary is officially an Energy Bus School. This program is modeled after Jon Gordon's book, "The Energy Bus", rewritten for elementary students. This purpose is to help schools create and sustain a positive school culture that leads to positive results. Spirit Lake Elementary is excited to be the first school in Iowa certified as an Energy Bus School and we are anxious to see the positive results it creates!

Spirit Lake COVID Tracking				
	Active Cases		Cumulative District Totals (since school start date, August 23)	
	Students (total 1257)	Staff (198)	Students (total 1257)	Staff (198)
Elementary	1	2	1	2
Middle School	3	0	4	0
High School	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	4	2	7	2

Middle School

Middle School students are enjoying an altered schedule every Friday this year to incorporate a block of time at the end of the day dedicated to 21st Century Skills and the Culture Playbook. This time focuses on building relationships, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking - skills deemed essential for future success. During this block and regular class times, the flexible seating and choices our new lobby space offers students and teachers is an incredible addition to the learning experience at the middle school!

Thank You

We appreciate the ongoing flexibility of our district families and community as we navigate these unprecedented challenges for the third school year. Please feel free to contact Angela Olsen, aolsen@spiritlekescd.org, at anytime for clarification on information you are hearing or with questions you may have regarding any school related topic. Thank you for supporting our district and valuing the efforts and investments made to provide in person learning and prepare students for their futures. We look forward to the many learning, growth, and educational opportunities that arise for our students this year!

High School

Life skills programming has begun at the high school to develop students' skills in Leadership & Character, Financial Foundations, 21st Century Skills and Personal Wellness. While the program is still new, we are confident the skills students are building through their activities, both onsite and with community partners, are critical to their future success. This special programming offers an outstanding supplement to the content experiences happening in our regular classrooms.