



11920 South Saginaw
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Phone: (810)591-6000
Fax: (810)591-6018
www.gbcs.org • [@gbcsbobcats](https://twitter.com/gbcsbobcats)

November 13, 2020

Dear Grand Blanc Families,

Today at a special meeting of our Board of Education, we further discussed the current state of COVID-19 and Grand Blanc Community Schools. Positive cases in the entire nation have risen dramatically recently. While our medical professionals seem to have a better hold on how to treat the virus, it continues to claim many lives and make many people very sick. For whatever reason, Grand Blanc is being especially hard-hit by the virus right now. We are told our hospitals locally are at around 84% capacity.

We have no reason to believe the current situation will improve substantially by the end of the month. Our middle school students were targeted to come back on November 30th. After consultation with our local health officials, I'm afraid it would not be prudent to proceed with this plan. **Therefore, we are going to push back the targeted return date for grades 6-8 to January 26th, the same as our high school students.**

The medical data all around us indicates the spread of COVID-19 is as bad, if not worse, than it has been to date. Our district nurses continue to investigate and contact trace our staff and students, and the number of investigations and quarantines they're handling has more than doubled in the last few weeks.

We have had fair success so far in keeping the virus from spreading amongst our elementary students, due to social distancing and masks, when a positive case comes in from outside school. We cannot guarantee, with the rising number of cases in the community, that we can continue with that success. In addition, we are experiencing serious staffing issues in many areas.

Given these developments, the Board of Education has also made the decision to move elementary students from hybrid to entirely remote learning beginning November 30th. The targeted return date for our elementary students will also be January 26, 2021.

We know this is hard on everyone. We know as parents, you may be worried about your child's development and academic progress. Grand Blanc staff remain dedicated to their students' success, now and in the future. We also have resources to assist with emotional needs and mental health issues, so please reach out to a teacher, student liaison or counselor if you have those concerns.

The vaccine success we are hearing in the news will hopefully lead us out of the COVID-19 stronghold. It is a light at the end of a very long tunnel. Unfortunately for now, we are still fully involved in this crisis. Please stay healthy and vigilant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clarence Garner".

Clarence Garner
Superintendent
Grand Blanc Community Schools

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