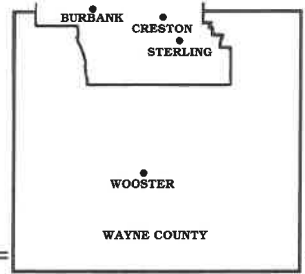


NORWAYNE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

350 SOUTH MAIN STREET
CRESTON, OHIO 44217
(330) 435-6382
FAX (330) 435-4633
www.norwayne.net

Superintendent
Karen O'Hare
nrcn_ohare@tccsa.net

Treasurer
Sandy Hadsell
nrcn_shadsell@tccsa.net



"Providing excellence that stands the test of time."

BOARD OF EDUCATION

ROSS COCHRELL
President
EARL RUPP
Vice President
DOUG INGOLD
ANGIE SMITH
JON WIDMER

NORWAYNE HIGH SCHOOL

DOUGLAS ZIMMERLY
Principal
350 S. Main Street
Creston, OH 44217
(330) 435-6384

NORWAYNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

KEVIN LEATHERMAN
Principal
350 S. Main St.
Creston, OH 44217
(330) 435-1195

NORWAYNE ELEMENTARY

DAVID DREHER
Principal
VINCE SETTE
Assistant Principal
286 S. Main Street
Creston, OH 44217
(330) 435-6383

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

TERRY VALENTINE
161 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 4443
Creston, OH 44217
Phone (330) 435-1141
Fax (330) 435-6478

November 12, 2020

Dear Norwayne Community,

With the increasing number of COVID cases here in Ohio, I know that many of you have concerns over how this will affect the schools. There are many rumors floating around about schools being forced to shut down and go to a totally remote platform or that schools will be shutting down over the holidays.

First, I want to assure you that our plan is to continue with our in-person format – 5 days a week. However, we are taking everything on a day to day basis. Currently our COVID numbers for staff and students have not been alarming. Yes, we've had a few cases and students and staff have had to be quarantined because of contact with a COVID positive person. But most of those cases have been through community spread not spread here at the schools. I realize that could change quickly but know that we are continuing to be diligent in cleaning and sanitizing our buildings, buses, and classrooms, enforcing the wearing of masks, and social distancing as much as possible in our classrooms.

I did specifically ask our county health commissioner if there were plans to close schools over the holidays – specifically between Thanksgiving until after the Christmas break and he said that has not been discussed as an option between the health department commissioners and Governor DeWine. Rather, that was being left up to individual school districts to determine the need to shut down or close for a specific period of time. Some schools may have higher cases of COVID or too many staff on quarantine to be able to find enough substitutes, which may force a closure of a specific school building and force the remote learning.

We are doing our best to prepare for the possibility of closure so you may have the building principals and/or teachers asking for information regarding the assignment of Chrome Books, phone contact information, or whether the students have access to internet at home. We want to be as prepared as we possibly can and not face the situation we had last March.

Please know that a closure may have to be put in place for a specific grade level, a specific building, or the entire school district in the future if COVID cases in our schools rise or if the governor mandates it, but it could be for just a specific period of time. So many of these decisions are based on "what ifs" so we are truly taking everything on a day to day basis but working to be as prepared as we possibly can.

Norwayne Local Schools will always do what is in the best interest of our students and staff safety. Please encourage your children to follow the guidelines put in place here at school for COVID safety and those guidelines put out by Governor DeWine.

I hope each of you continue to stay safe and healthy and enjoy the upcoming holidays.

Sincerely,

Karen O'Hare, Superintendent
Norwayne Local Schools

KO/fh