

October 7, 2020 Oct.

Dear Parents and Students,

Over the summer, we spent a great deal of time speculating how the school year was going to go for the students and staff. I am happy to say that overall, we are having a very good year. This year is very different for students and staff and it is important that we continue to evaluate how everyone is doing and make changes when necessary.

We want to prepare students and staff for a situation where either small groups of students need to quarantine or an entire building needs to close for a period of time. As a result, we added a large number of technology devices to the classrooms and also several new software programs to aid in student learning.

The teachers at Maquoketa Valley have made many changes to their classrooms to support students. One thing is evident is that teachers find it difficult to support students who are learning from home all semester and those who are quarantined for a few weeks and then returning, as well as the students in their classroom at school. The teachers also need more time to learn the new software that is available so they can better support these students who are working from home and also the students who are in the classrooms.

As a result, the school board approved a change to our school calendar. We are going to implement an early dismissal at 1:05 PM each Wednesday effective October 14. Our current school calendar has early dismissals and full teacher learning days in the calendar and we are going to leave those unchanged. We will be adding an early dismissal to each of the other Wednesdays that are currently scheduled as a full school day.

This time will be very important for teachers to continue to plan and learn new strategies to help students whether they are in school or learning from home. We have a very dedicated staff at Maquoketa Valley that wants to learn new techniques and do their best for students and we need to give them the time they need to be successful.

Thank you for your continued support as we work our way through this very unusual school year.

Dave Hoeger