

## **Stanwood-Camano School District**

### **Family Communication**

**December 4, 2020**

The district has reviewed the latest COVID-19 data from the Snohomish and Island County Health Districts and met with authorities from both counties. There have been significant increases in rates of positive cases of COVID-19 in the community of Stanwood and on Camano Island.

Our district continues to grapple with our decision to keep our schools open to limited face-to-face instruction. Island County health district authorities stated, "There are no right answers. What happens in communities will impact our schools." The Snohomish County health district has not changed their guidance for in person learning.

The mitigation measures the district has in place currently have prevented transmission in our schools. Families keeping their symptomatic children home and communicating with the district has enabled us to serve our youngest learners and special populations in person. PLEASE continue to do this so that we do not have to close our schools to all in person learning.

The increased transmission of COVID-19 in our region, however, has the potential to overwhelm our health care systems and put vulnerable people at increased risk. We will continue to monitor the situation and let families know if the district has to make the difficult decision to scale back in person learning to decrease transmission and increase safety. Families will receive an update in the middle of next week.

#### **In other news:**

Equity has been top of mind for many people across the country. In order to better understand the needs and experiences of our students and staff, the district has established an Equity Leadership Team. This team is gathering information to determine what actions need to be taken to increase equity across the district. The team is composed of parents, community members, district staff, and a school board representative. District administrators and the leadership team have participated in training to learn how to address issues related to racism in our schools. Most recently, we have surveyed all staff and students in grades 6-12 to determine their feelings and experiences regarding equity. In the coming months, we will be asking families for their questions and experiences regarding equity. The information gathered from staff, students, and families will guide the district's work in the coming years.