

Dear Arapahoe High School Students and Staff,

September 25, 2020

In talking with a couple of parents in the past two days, I thought it might be helpful to clarify a few things that may put your mind at ease. I want to start by recognizing that we are still living in challenging and unprecedented times. Even with the recent quarantines, I still believe our school is one of the safest places we can be. I want to assure you that we have had a total of only 3 individual cases of COVID that have caused these recent quarantines. The quarantine is a precaution for all students who have been in a classroom with a positive COVID case or who have otherwise been determined to have had close contact with the person based on current guidelines from the CDPHE and Tri-County Health. We are hopeful that in time, we will be able to decrease the number of students and staff quarantined in these instances because our students and staff continue to practice good habits with regard to cleaning, mask-wearing, and social distancing. With the block schedule and in the hybrid model, our class sizes are very, very small. Therefore, students and staff are able to maintain a safe distance from one another. In fact, we were contacted this week by the lead epidemiologist at CDPHE to see why we were only quarantining such small numbers with each positive case. They consider us a model school for reducing risk and managing these situations. None of the students who have tested positive thus far have contracted the virus at school. Additionally, as of today, no student on quarantine has reported a positive case from their contact at school.

Because we are the largest school in LPS with nearly 2000 students I anticipate there will be other quarantine situations. However, I continue to value our in-person learning at least 2 days each week for both students and staff. Even if your child has a teacher who is quarantined, all students are receiving instruction from those teachers via a live stream Google Meet. We have many layers of safety precautions in place (directional trafficking, mask-wearing, constant cleaning of desks and common areas, temperature checks as they enter school if they have not done one at home, and others). I would consider our school cleaner and safer than most places I have been out in the community -- stores, restaurants, etc. Particularly with good mask habits by both students and staff and maintaining social distancing, it is a safe place to be.

All of that being said, there could come a tipping point where we are unable to cover classes with qualified substitutes for quarantined teachers and would have to go fully remote. We are hoping this does not happen any time soon, but it is always a possibility. AHS, along with the rest of the LPS schools, are fine-tuning our AHS Distance Learning Plans and we will be ready to go if/when that becomes necessary.

These continue to be uncertain, unprecedented, and challenging times. I hope you will reach out to me, a grade-level administrator, a counselor, a teacher, or another staff member if you have any questions. I truly hope you and your family are well and I thank you for your continued support of Arapahoe High School.

Sincerely,

Natalie Pramenko  
Arapahoe High School Principal