Letter from the desk of the Superintendent

March 9, 2020

Dear ISD Community & Friends:

Concern of the COVID-19 is encompassing our nation and ISD is taking an active role in prevention of the spread of disease. **ISD has no known cases of the COVID-19 virus.** Precautions have been taken which include the following: anyone with flu-like symptoms are asked to stay home and seek care from their physician, hand washing is stressed daily and alcohol-based sanitizer is being provided throughout the school buildings, letters have been sent to staff and families regarding the management of the flu, we will cease non-essential large gatherings on campus, and signage is posted on entryways for visitors regarding self-screening.

Legislation update on Restraints:
There has been a lot of media coverage on the topic of schools and the use of restraints and isolated time outs. I want to assure you that ISD was already in compliance with the new Emergency Amendment and Rule.

Update: ISD has still not received our report from the site visit.
On Nov. 12\textsuperscript{th}, ISD & ISVI went through a Civil Rights Compliance Review. We feel both schools perform well in this area. The second visit for our facilities took place on Nov. 20\textsuperscript{th} to be sure we are ADA compliant. We should get a letter discussing any findings they have for us in the next 4-6 weeks. Please note this review was not due to any complaints against the schools.

Update: ISD has completed negotiations with Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT). A new contract is in place. I appreciate the principals and staff that participated and made this happen.

Update: Calvin Young, from Seek the World, was scheduled to come and present to students and staff in the spring but will not be able to come until the Fall of 2020.

Here’s what else has been happening at ISD:
ISD tiger logo competition is happening now! Branding our school has been on my to-do list since I began at ISD. See website or Facebook page for more information.

ISD is pleased to announce that there is a strong possibility that boys basketball and girls volleyball will continue next school year. ISD will coop with ISVI to offer a swim team & wrestling! ISD Track will continued to be offered. All of this is due to increased student enrollment and student interest! I will send out a letter to everyone regarding sports for next year in the upcoming weeks.

Since the after-school activities at ISD have recently come under the microscope, I wanted to inform the Council of the additional opportunities provided to our students via our Recreation Department. Some of the activities include the following: Fingerspelling Bee, Makerspace, art club, drama club (in the works), Tigers Get Fit, Woodturners club, Jr.NAD, and Leo club, just to name a few. Our Rec. department also offers or is working out logistics to be able to offer the following for our students: MMA/Karate classes (still pending agreement with trainer) Camping for 4-8\textsuperscript{th} graders, Harper Volleyball
Tournament- TLP and HS teams will have tryouts soon (April 4th is the tournament), 9 Square in the air-
Handmade for students (very popular), JRHS Girls Volleyball at Fitness World, open gym and swimming.

ISD Outreach Department received an award at the EDHI conference on March 5th! It was a beautiful
key under glass representing the key role ISD Outreach plays in the lives of families with D/HH children
across the state of Illinois. We are so proud of the Outreach staff.

State Fingerspelling Bee is April 23rd in Bloomington. Good Luck!

ISD Alumni, Jamal Garner, to participate in Pan Am Games.

Community ASL classes will be offered April 1st – May 6th in the HS Media Center.

Carolyn Eilering and I gave a presentation on ISD at the United Methodist Foundation in Springfield last
week. The foundation is the Trustee for the Vae Futlz Trust. Vae Rose worked at ISD in the Evaluation
Center Department for decades. She was a valued staff member that always put the needs of the ISD
students first. She passed away in April of 2019. The foundation would like to support ISD and we are
working together to further achieve Vae’s mission in life.

CTE month was in February. JC Hatfield’s woods class made a beautiful table that was raffled off. The
raffle was a huge success bringing in about $1500!

Deb Gossrow so graciously donated two custom made golf carts to ISD in honor of her late husband.
They are to be used for students with special needs, nursing emergencies and tours of the campus.
Thanks Deb!!

Julee M. Nist, M.Ed., Ed.S.
ISD Superintendent