



## Fairfield Union Local School District

Board of Education Office  
6417 Cincinnati-Zanesville Road NE  
Lancaster, OH 43130

Phone: (740)536-7384

Fax: (740)536-9132

[www.fairfieldunion.org](http://www.fairfieldunion.org)

March 23, 2021

To the Fairfield Union community,

It is hard to believe it has been just over a year since Governor DeWine first shut down our schools. What many of us thought would be a two- or three-week closure has turned into a historical event that will be talked about for centuries. Through it all, our community and district have stood tall and worked together to overcome all obstacles. I am extremely proud of our students, staff and each one of you for the character and strength shown during this difficult period.

Since the beginning of the closure, I have asked for grace, flexibility and patience from everyone for each other. All of us are doing the very best we can do, and it has been critical to our success that we have not lost sight of that fact. Despite the frustrations COVID has caused for every member of this community, we have shown true Falcon Pride and persevered to this point. Now, I can say that I truly believe much better days are within our reach, but I must also stay focused on the here and now when making decisions for the district.

After considering feedback from staff members, parents, community members and most importantly, our students, I have decided to keep our district in a Modified Green Status Level for the remainder of the school year. The voices of our students weighed heavily on me and ultimately guided me to this decision. In the survey, our students often referred to the incredible stress they face this time of year with state testing as a primary reason for wanting to stay with our Modified Green Status Level. Many of our students shared that Friday served as a time to decompress and catch up on class work from the week. I fully realize changing our schedule now would most certainly add to the stress our students already face.

I also know the importance of time for all of us. From time to meet with over 200 students in a remote environment to time needed for Kindergarten screenings to time to develop our Extended Learning Plans for summer, our district is utilizing time on Fridays to avoid the need to pull teachers from classrooms Monday through Thursday (thus maximizing instructional time). While I know this decision may be frustrating, because we all want to get back to our normal, I do believe this is the best course of action for our district at this time.

It is my hope you will find it in you to give just a little more grace and patience as we finish this school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the district office, and as always, it is a great day to be a Falcon!

Chad Belville  
Superintendent

Chad Belville  
Superintendent

Courtney Roberts  
Treasurer