

The North Mason School Board has committed to posting a message to the community each month in any effort to keep everyone informed.

School has been in session since the beginning of September. It has been unlike anything we have ever known or imagined as we respond as a community to the challenges of living through the Covid 19 pandemic. Not only have our teachers and educational support staff worked diligently to maintain the delivery of instruction throughout constantly changing requirements for protocols as a result of the pandemic, our financial condition has been impacted as well.

- Operational costs due to the pandemic increased to over \$1,000,000.
- Enrollment declined for a loss of state funding of approximately \$2,000,000.
- Increased custodial staff, personal protective supplies, technology software and hardware, additional contracts with technology support personnel, curriculum materials for costs totaling around \$1,300,000.
- Loss of levy funds = \$2,300,000 for second half of school year 2020-2021 and \$2,300,000 for first half of school year 2021-2022.

Even though the above financial losses are staggering, the school district has managed to continue to serve students through prudent management of the fiscal resources we have. Currently, pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students are back on campus with a modified schedule. High school students will begin returning on March 15th. Sports are cautiously opening up and there is a sense of excitement and anticipation in all our buildings.

As we move through 2020-2021, the school administration and teaching staff are planning the best way to address student learning loss that will be a reality for a number of our student population. This will be a priority for all and will involve creative solutions to meet the individual need for each student.

Our families are important partners in this work. We need to hear from you about what is working, and what roadblocks come your way. I encourage you to stay positive and keep looking forward.

Laura Boad