

# Smart Restart

## Successful Start to Fulltime In-Person Learning

Alarms. Catching the bus. Homework. Your kids might be a little tired this week as they wrap up their first full week of fulltime in-person learning since the pandemic shut down classrooms in March 2020. That means the start of the second semester at Fargo Public Schools (FPS) has actually been the beginning of a more normal routine in nearly a year for many families.

The FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee has taken great care with its decision making on whether to have students in distance learning, hybrid, or in the classroom. FPS started the year in hybrid but transitioned secondary schools to all distance learning for a short period of time in the fall when cases started to rise in our region. Contact tracing data soon revealed that students are most often coming in contact with the coronavirus somewhere other than school, deeming classrooms as lower-risk areas for the spread of COVID-19. Plans were then set in place to bring students back to full-time in-person learning, which happened at the start of the second semester on January 19.



*Eighth grade students at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School attend Mr. Cordel Finton's language arts class.*

Carl Ben Eielson (CBE) Middle School 8th Grade Student Madison Johnson says, "Me, personally, I feel like I learn better in person. I like being able to see people and being able to communicate with people."

The start to full-time in-person learning has largely been successful. Districtwide, positive COVID-19 cases have dropped dramatically over the last few weeks. As of the last data release on January 22, four students and one teacher were out of school due to positive tests.

When talking about the transition to in-person learning, CBE Principal Bradley Larson says, "[It] went better than expected. Students have been very well behaved and excited to see old friends and make new friends. Many were very nervous coming back, but we are beginning to get back into a routine and slowly getting more comfortable."

And that routine is key to helping students get used to a more normal school day. But for Johnson, she says waking up early is worth it to be back in class every day. She says, "I'm really happy because I get to see all my teachers, get to know more people, and make more friends. It's pretty nice."

The FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee is scheduled to hold its next meeting on Monday, February 8 at 6:30 a.m. At that time, they will assess data to determine if FPS should stay in its current learning model. FPS COVID-19 Data is posted weekly on the FPS website [at this link](#).

