



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

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May 11, 2020

Senator Robert L. Cowles  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Cowles,

I am pleased to write to you today to share the story of Shiocton School District and how our small, rural school is meeting the needs of our learners and of our community amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Within two days of the announced school building closure, our teachers were working with their students through various digital platforms and mediums. Thankfully, our team of educators had readily embraced digital learning days (DLDs) earlier in the school year, taking time in January and February to practice DLDs with their students. This afforded us the opportunity to ensure that all students, Grades 3 – 12, were familiar with their chrome books and how to access learning in the event of a digital learning day. Little did we know how important our preparation and planning would be.

Too, our school family readily embraced the new challenges of ensuring that our students received the proper nutrition needed to learn. What began as 100 bags of breakfast and lunch food quickly multiplied as the economic effects of the coronavirus took hold. Each day, our food service and paraprofessional staff members work as a well-oiled machine, packaging over 750 meals and placing them in coolers that are loaded onto school buses and delivered to their homes.

Our on-site daycare, Shiocton Child Care Center, reopened at the end of April to provide needed care for Tier I and II families. Our nearly 50 member child care center continues to provide pre-academic instruction and center-based learning for the children of those on the frontlines, fighting this virus in the health care and related industries. And we do so while also taking precautions and following all CDC recommendations, including daily health checks of every child before s/he entered the Center's doors.


We also responded to a need in our greater community by donating five iPads to Good Shepard Nursing Home and Meadow Woods Residential Care facility in Seymour. Through this donation, more of their residents are able to maintain contact with their family members who are no longer able to visit in person.

Through creativity and a commitment to both our learners and the community, we have found meaningful ways to keep every employee working. Not a single one of our nearly 150 employees has been laid off. From telephone conversations and ZOOM meetings to handwritten letters and wellness checks, our staff have come together to provide direct instruction and course work help, as well as social and emotional support during this challenging time.

We are proud of the many ways in which our small, rural school district has embraced the challenges with a big heart, meeting the needs of both our learners and our community. In a time where one so readily hears the negatives, I wanted to be sure to share with you the many points of pride within the story of Shiocton School District.

Wishing you continued strength as you, too, seek to serve the needs of so many.

Yours in Education,

  
Nichole J. Schweitzer  
District Administrator

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*"Where Excellence is Expected"*

*The Shiocton School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.*