## SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND

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August 3, 2020

Dear School Town of Highland Parents and Community:

I have been in constant contact with the Lake County Health Department all summer long. We were given updated information this past Friday with guidelines to follow for opening schools. Unfortunately, it will be next to impossible to open school and follow the guidelines set up by the Lake County Health Department.

Positivity rates are not dropping quickly enough in the county to be able to keep schools open. With that said, our school year will begin completely on-line for the first nine weeks.

Our registration process goes live at 10:00 A.M. today. Originally, there would have been an option for traditional schedules or an on-line schedule. There will not be a choice given at this time since school will open with on-line learning. Parents will be given the option for traditional school or on-line learning later in the first nine weeks.

I truly believe in-person education is what is best for students, but student and staff safety will always be our first priority. My goal is to get back to school as soon as possible. I am asking for your help. The positivity rate will decrease if we continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC when leaving our homes.

Principals and supervisors will be able to answer specific questions and concerns. I will continue to monitor positivity rates in hopes of getting back to school as soon as possible. We will also be getting a schedule out to all of you for iPads and other instructional resources for student distribution.

I realize this is not the news many of you wanted to hear, but I am confident we can and will make it through these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Smith School Town of Highland Superintendent