## Dear Parents and Community,

I wanted to end the week with an update regarding the rise in new COVID cases in Benton County. This week we engaged in extensive conversation with our partners at the Benton County Health Department, and they have confirmed that we <u>WILL</u> be able to operate in-person instruction next week regardless of the rise in cases. This means we will be open next week October 5th and most likely beyond.

We will be assessing the metrics weekly and informing our families accordingly. Because cases are rising, we have increased our vigilance here at the Alsea Charter School and temporarily suspended after school activities so as to limit potential for exposure as much as possible.

We ask that our families keep the potential increase of COVID cases in mind as they go about life over the weekend and take extra precautions if possible. Everyone working together and doing their part will help us keep our doors open and students and staff safe.

As we move into fall, we also face the onset of Flu Season on top of COVID-19, and the symptoms for flu are similar. If you are comfortable doing so, we encourage all students and families to consider getting a flu shot as a means of keeping symptoms and exposure for flu at bay. We are so very fortunate to be open for in-person school, and it is our goal to stay open with your support.

In summary, I want to be clear that current conditions can change, but for now we are good to keep our doors open in support of students, parents, and our awesome families. I look forward to seeing all our kids next week! Go Wolverines!!!

As always, feel free to call me at 509-220-5313 or email me at <a href="marc.thielman@alsea.k12.or.us">marc.thielman@alsea.k12.or.us</a>, if you have questions, concerns or need more information.

Sincerely, **Marc Thielman**Alsea Superintendent/K-12 Principal 541-487-4305 Ext. 201