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April 1, 2021

Dear Parent:

I hope that you and your family are all doing well.

With the upcoming Spring Break, April 2-9, I am sure you are looking forward to spending some more time with your children. This has been a challenging year so far for our students, staff, and families and I am certain we all welcome the short break.

As we start the fourth marking period on April 16, I want to let you know that we have been making tremendous progress in preparing for increased in-person learning. Studies have shown that in-person learning provides more benefits to students, including the effects of socializing and developing friendships, which help students learn more about themselves, build empathy, and even cope better with stress. In our drive to improve safety and reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, many of our staff have been vaccinated and our schools are being cleaned and sanitized daily. The goal of our District is to return as many students to school as we can safely manage.

Please note that that we would have a modified schedule starting on April 19 with classes ending at 1:30 pm. Also, note the following:

April 12-16: All Remote Learning for staff and students

April 19: All Staff return to District

June 1-18: All Remote Learning for students

We are also following the guidelines of New Jersey's travel advisory. Travelers and residents returning from **any U.S. state or territory** beyond the immediate region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) should self-quarantine at their home, hotel, or other temporary lodging following recommendations from the CDC:

- If travel is unavoidable, travelers should consider getting tested with a viral test (not an antibody test) 1-3 days before the trip and again 3-5 days after the trip.
- If travelers test positive, they should **self-isolate for at least 10 days and should postpone travel during that time.**
- If travelers test negative, they should **quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.**
- If testing is not available (or if the results are delayed), travelers should **quarantine for 10 days after travel.**

As many of you may be aware, the CDC has recently published guidelines that could allow us to reduce the distance between students at school to 3 feet, rather than the current 6 feet, depending on the level of risk. The guidance specifically states:

- For High Schools
 - In-person instruction is recommended with a minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing between students maintained in classrooms with strict adherence to mask-wearing in Low and Moderate Risk Levels.
 - For High-Risk Level, in person instruction should be considered if the school is able to maximize physical distancing of 6 feet or more. A physical distance of 6 feet is recommended between students to the maximum extent practicable with strict adherence to mask-wearing.

- Mask wearing should be enforced at all times.
- Outside of classrooms, 6 feet of physical distancing should be maintained to the maximal extent possible for all grade levels.
- 6 feet of physical distancing is particularly important in the following scenarios:
 - For high schoolers when regional risk is high (orange)
 - Between staff members in the school building and between staff members and students.
 - In common areas, such as school lobbies and auditoriums
 - When masks can't be worn, such as when eating
 - In community settings outside of the classroom
- CDC and NJ Department of Health continue to recommend six feet of physical distancing when masks cannot be worn.

Please continue to monitor your child's performance in each course to ensure they succeed. If you would like to request a change in learning option (hybrid to remote or remote to hybrid) you can contact the school's principal.

As always, thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dr Pedersen

Superintendent of Schools