



October 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Rumson School District,

In staying in line with my last letter to the community and reflecting on the smooth transition we are experiencing with the return of grades 1 and 2 this week, we are happy to share these additional announcements.

Before doing so, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize several things:

1. Please continue to be vigilant in **keeping students home if they show any signs** of illness. Together we can assess and plan for the most appropriate return of your child to school, one that will allow classrooms and schools to continue to stay open for instruction.
2. Please continue to **complete the Genesis Screening Questionnaire daily**. In this conscious completion of these questions, parents are prompted to fully contemplate exposures or symptoms and err on the side of caution. It is this side of caution that allows our full student body to remain healthy.
3. Please continue to consider activities outside of school that may lead to exposures. The **minimizing of such exposure possibilities outside of school** will help keep our schools operating in an in-person mode. I have stated before that it is what occurs outside of school that determines what can happen inside our schools.
4. Since March, many of us have sacrificed travel outside of the state and country. With our schools opening for more in-person instruction each week, now is the time to stay the course. Please **consider postponing travel during the many breaks in November and December** as high demand for quarantining students upon return threatens our ability to provide in-person instruction. A few points to remember on this:
 - a. Any travel for more than 24 hours to a state or country listed on the quarantine list will require students who went on the trip to quarantine for 14 days upon return.
 - b. If a parent or a family member in the home travels but the student does not, the student does not have to quarantine unless the parent or family member develops symptoms or tests positive during the 14-day quarantine.
 - c. Please review the links to the [Quarantine States](#) and [Quarantine Countries](#) as it is updated regularly. Please know that if the location appears on the quarantine list at any point (even if it comes off the list thereafter) while the student/parent is in the location, quarantining of 14 days must occur.

Knowing how well our community has worked with Deane-Porter and Forrestdale to keep up the momentum towards more in-person instruction, we ask you to consider all of the above as we bring our next group of students back to school for in-person instruction.

Tuesday, October 27th, all students in **third grade** will return for in-person instruction Tuesday through Friday. These will be **1:00pm dismissal** days. **Mondays will remain full virtual** for all students. *If you are considering a return from full remote to in-person or in-person to full remote during this transition time, please contact your principal, Ms. Feeney.* Our full remote students will also access direct instruction virtually on these days.

Tuesday, October 27th, all students in **grade five** will return for in-person instruction Tuesday through Friday. These will be **1:00pm dismissal** days. **Mondays will remain full virtual** for all students. *If you are considering a return from full remote to in-person or in-person to full remote during this transition time, please contact your principal, Mrs. Gibbons.* Our full remote students will also access direct instruction virtually on these days.

Again, we know some parents are anxious to make this transition for all as soon as possible and we know other parents are quite apprehensive about the changes occurring. As a community, we must respect this spectrum of feelings and roll out plans that assure the greatest degree of safety and well-being possible. In addition, while we are committed to getting our students back to in-person schooling, as demonstrated by our consistent roll-out throughout October, some logistics need time for execution. Thanks to our supportive Rumson Education Foundation for their donation of funds and the donation of equipment and materials from First Call PPE, we are able to consider *next steps for our 6th through 8th-grade students*. We will be announcing these as soon as possible.

As part of our best-laid plans, sometimes we find that some procedures are effective while others are not. We thank the PTO for their commitment to ensuring the safety of students and staff with the supply of clear backpacks. However, these are not serving the needs of our students well. As a result, effective immediately, *students may utilize their own personal backpacks* if they desire.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate these uncertain times, and thank you for your continued trust in our ability to serve the children of Rumson both safely and with a focus on academic, social, and emotional growth.

With pride,

Dr. John E. Bormann
Superintendent of the Borough of Rumson School District