



September 25, 2020

Dear Parents:

First and foremost, I hope that you and your family are healthy and safe. Further to the letter you received Wednesday from Dr. Bormann, I am writing with details about the following areas:

- Guided Reading and Guided Math during the 2:00-2:30pm period
- Intervention Services estimated start date and identification process
- Gifted and Talented services start date and identification process
- Schedule for Grades 6-8 Study Skills 2:00-2:30pm
- Monday schedule for grades 1-8

#### **1-5 Literacy and Mathematics Learning While at Home - 2:00-2:30pm**

One component of the balanced literacy approach used in Rumson is the use of guided reading as both an instructional and assessment tool; students are grouped homogeneously within their appropriate instructional reading level to both facilitate teaching and support the application of decoding, vocabulary and comprehension strategies. Before guided reading can begin, teachers need to understand where their students are reading using the Fountas & Pinnell leveling system. Currently, homeroom teachers and interventionists are working diligently to assess the reading level of each student during their in-person learning days. Our full remote teachers are also working on this task. At some point in October, parents can expect guided reading to take place both when students are in-school and on a scheduled rotating basis on at-home learning days, between 2:00-2:30pm.

Guided math groups function in much the same way: Students participate in flexible groups to facilitate teaching and support procedural fluency and application of content. Teachers are currently assessing students, gathering data such as Math Inventory quantile and classroom performance. At some point in October, parents can expect guided math groups to take place in school once these assessments are complete, as well as on a scheduled rotating basis for students during their at-home learning days between 2:00-2:30pm.

Schedules will be communicated to you at some point in October. Until then, the post 1:00 session will remain unchanged.

#### **Intervention Services**

Parents of returning intervention students were notified in early September regarding the estimated start date for intervention services to begin. As is the case annually and most especially this year, our amazing intervention teachers are working alongside our homeroom teachers to assess our K-5 students. This process is taking a bit longer due to the hybrid schedule, and intervention services are targeted to start at some point in October. Identification of any new intervention students considers several data points inclusive of aimswebPlus, Fountas & Pinnell reading levels, Math Inventory quantile, classroom performance and teacher input.

#### **Gifted and Talented Services**

Mrs. Maureen Gordon, our JET teacher, has reached out to our current JET students regarding the schedule of JET programming. In addition, Mrs. Gordon has developed grade 6-8 enrichment classes that are designed to support any interested students with extension learning opportunities.

[Identification of JET students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will occur at the end of Trimester 1.](#) Providing this time allows for our grade 3, 4 and 5 staff to provide rich, engaging and well-rounded educational experiences and gain an understanding of their students as learners and individuals while students adjust to the new school year routines and expectations.

#### **Study Skills Grades 6, 7 and 8 - 2:00-2:30pm**

Our middle school staff will be available to provide study skills/extra support for students beginning at some point in October. After our SEL/I&RS team meets with 6-8 teachers, students will be invited for support. Until then, the post 1:00 sessions will remain unchanged.

#### **Monday Schedule for Grades K-8**

The Monday 3:00pm schedule will be developed with the support of each grade level PLC and shared sometime next week.

As we navigate through this national period of uncertainty and change, the Rumson School District remains committed to supporting students academically, socially and emotionally. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Be well,

Vera Ridoux  
District Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment