



December 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Rumson School District,

I hope this snowy day finds you well and your children found time to merge the modern world of virtual learning with the past traditions of a snow day! On my end, the apprehension of calling a snow day has somewhat diminished, knowing the capabilities of our students and staff with virtual learning. That written, at-home virtual days do put some strain on parents' responsibilities and, for that reason, they will never be utilized unless warranted.

This brings us to the purpose of this letter. Last week I announced that the week after the winter break would be virtual to ensure we can minimize both school quarantines and possible transmissions when we return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021. This, I hoped, would be the last time we would need to consider a district-wide switch to virtual instruction as we began to focus on an eventual return to expanded school days.

After much consideration, the district will be virtual from **Monday, December 21st through Wednesday, December 23rd**. This is one of the more challenging decisions I have had to make. What weighs on me heavily and is the reason for this decision is that IF we needed to quarantine students or staff in the next few days - and recent local trends make this more likely by the hour - it would significantly impact scheduled family events as we enter the winter break. While we are doing all we can to minimize exposures and have had no transmissions within the school district, the thoughtful precautions we have taken on by going virtual have allowed us to have one of the highest numbers of in-person days with the full student population in the area.

In line with the effort to ensure families can enjoy the winter break without concern for quarantines, I also want to ensure our students have the opportunity to spend their last in-person school day of 2020 with the holiday experience they look forward to each year. Therefore we will hold *in-person instruction tomorrow, Friday, December 18th*. Next week will continue with virtual instruction following your child's in-person schedule. Your child's teacher will provide further guidance on this.

I know this may not be a popular decision, and it is not one I want to make. However, I am confident it is the best decision to make for our students, staff, and families as we move into the winter break.

Be safe, be well, and enjoy your winter break. I look forward to a new year filled with only positive correspondences to you all!!

Happy Holidays,

Dr. John E. Bormann
Superintendent of the Borough of Rumson Schools



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