



Superintendent's Bi-Weekly School Community Update February 11, 2021

Over the past few months the parents/guardians of our school community have received many updates from my office. Unfortunately, most of these have related to the district's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While this is important for us to focus on at this time, there are many more items to communicate. This update launches the first of bi-weekly updates coming out of my office every other Thursday. Of course, additional correspondence will be sent as appropriate.

Regards,
Dr. Bormann
Superintendent of Schools

Looking Back...

Welcome Back to In-Person Instruction - Thursday, February 4th - We welcomed back our students from the district virtual instruction period that resulted from the occurrence of 20+ COVID-positive cases in our student population. While this virtual instruction period was inconvenient to all, it was successful in resetting our quarantines from just over 300 students and staff down to the current number of less than 50.

Future Cities Competition - Saturday, February 6th - Congratulations to our 8th Grade Future Cities Team -Sophie Yockel, CJ Volk, Stella Saad - who won 2nd place in the NJ Future Cities Competition!
[Future Cities](#)

Virtual Snow Day - Monday, February 8th - Unfortunately, due to extreme cold and icy conditions on campus and our bus routes and varying conditions for staff access to campus we were forced to be virtual! I am all in for this being our last virtual day! Thank you to our amazing custodial staff who spent the two days getting the campus ready for in-person instruction on Tuesday!

Pre-K Registration - Monday, February 8th - Pre-Kindergarten registration closed for the district. We had a tremendous response and are looking forward to offering numerous sections of this research-based program in the 2021-2022 school year!

Looking Ahead...

Lunch with A Loved One - Monday, February 15th - We look forward to our Deane-Porter students celebrating the season with a loved one during their virtual lunch date! Thank you to the PTO, Ms. Feeney and the DP staff for helping to keep this wonderful tradition alive!

Kindergarten Registration - Friday, February 19th - Please remember to submit your kindergartener's registration for the 2021-2022 school year. I know it seems early, however, these registration numbers help us to determine the number of sections and teachers needed as we build our budget for the new school year! Please send in the registrations to Mrs. Diane Ryan at Deane-Porter School.

[Visit the District Registration Page](#)

Announcing...

COVID-19 Page - Please visit our newly designed [COVID-19 page](#) on the district website. On this tab you will find:

- District pandemic response plans
- General COVID-19 information
- District Correspondence on COVID-19

Pages 25-29 highlight the district decision-making chain and all quarantine guidance followed by the district. I hope this page provides you with an understanding of the information we utilize as a district to maintain in-person instruction safely. We will continuously update this page in response to new guidance from agencies within our decision-making chain and notify you when changes are made.

Parent Academy

On Thursday, February 25th and on Thursday, March 4th I will be hosting virtual Parent Academies to update the community on our journey through the pandemic and map out a vision for the days that lie ahead. Please feel free to join me via the Zoom link below:

Option 1: Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82866884712?pwd=NCtSRll0WjJFQldkZW9EL1U0QllzUT09>

Option 2: Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81075999089?pwd=Yjd3Q1duekRWUTFsVzB6U2R0eVFiQT09>

Referendum & Facility Projects - During drop off and pick-up please take a moment to look at the progress of our construction! Once the snow subsides the steel will be completed and the masonry will begin. In such a dismal time it is so great to see the potential of what future school years hold. This project is on track, but please know this was not in any part due to in-person closures. Most of the construction work within our two buildings will be completed this upcoming summer. This includes closing in our open classrooms, upgrades to our science labs and media centers, and installation of HVAC systems, fire alarm systems, phone systems, and security systems throughout both buildings.

A drive by will also allow you to see the property we are on track for acquiring from the Borough of Rumson within the next few months. The property on the corner of Narumson St. and Forrest Ave. will be utilized as open space for the campus and its acquisition serves for future campus projects as the need may arise.

Vaccines - The district is working with local authorities to ensure our teaching staff can be vaccinated when the Governor opens access to educators. Currently, we are supporting our 65+ and medically eligible staff to be vaccinated. This is one additional measure for assuring in-person instruction can be maintained.

Closing Message...

In closing this first bi-weekly update, I ask our school community to know that it is the desire of our entire staff to have in-person instruction every day. We want our students here with us! It is better for them in every way possible. Sometimes, however, we are forced to make decisions that seem contrary to this. Please accept this assurance that we are doing everything we can to remain in-person and are even working on ways to go to full days. When we do have to make the unfortunate decision to go virtual it is not for any reason other than having the best interest of our students' and staff's safety in mind. While everyone might not agree with these decisions, I think we can all agree that it is the circumstances of this pandemic that we must be displeased with and not the efforts being made by our schools. With that said, let's all focus on keeping our schools open so we can put discussions of school closures behind us...for good!