



Superintendent's Bi-Weekly School Community Update

February 25, 2021

This week's update contains critical information regarding our return to full days and quarantine adjustments taking effect immediately. Please take some time to review these, as there is a lot to share. While these are outlined in the attached documents, it is my intention to also explain them further at our Parent Academy tonight and on March 4th. I hope you find these updates a timely response to the needs of our students in the last few months of school and a huge step toward more normalcy for our students.

Regards,
Dr. Bormann
Superintendent of Schools

Looking Back...

Lunch With a Loved One - Monday, February 15th we celebrated our annual celebration virtually! A special thank you to Ms. Feeney and Mr. Pellisier for coordinating this with our fabulous PTO. While the gym and cafeteria did not smell of sweet treats, our classrooms were filled with smiling faces as they "hung out" via Google Hangouts with parents from home and work, grandparents from far away places, and other family members they do not normally get to lunch with. In the words of one kindergartener, "Today was awesome!"

Public Speaking Competition - Ralph Waldo Emerson simply said "Speech is power"! A special congratulations to our Forrestdale students who demonstrate that power in the virtual speech contest on February 12th, First Place- Julia Funck, Second Place- Cooper Barrett, and Third Place - Charlotte Brown!

Kindergarten Registration - While our official kindergarten registration period closed on February 19th, our doors at Deane-Porter are always open to continued registrations. Right now we have enough students for four class sections! As we plan our 21-22 budget it is important that you contact Mrs. Diane Ryan, dryan@rumsonschool.org to inform her if you will be registering. This is important for us to ensure we budget enough sections for our youngest Bulldogs!

Spirit Week and Rock Your School- Forrestdale and Deane -Porter did not let COVID get in the way of some good old fashioned fun and school spirit. It was great to see the students and staff engaging in this fun week and bringing a little more cheer to our days! Pig-tails, tie-dye, and funky socks all rocked!

Looking Ahead...

[Read Across America Day, March 2nd](#) - A special thank you to our media specialist, Ms. Waters, and her assistant, Mrs. Cooper, as they work on some great activities for our students on this national day of reading! I encourage your family to put down the devices and turn off the TV this evening and read together or dedicate some stop-drop-and-read time within your house! Here are some great ideas: [“5 Ways to Ring in Read Across America Day at Home”](#)

[Conferences](#) - In the upcoming days you will get information on Parent/Teacher conferences. Our staff looks forward to connecting with you virtually to share how your child is progressing in this school year. Save the dates:

Monday, March 22 / Tuesday, March 23 / Wednesday, March 24/ Thursday, March 25

[Upcoming Events](#) - The spring is usually a flurry of events in our schools. We are looking ahead at creative ways to keep these events and traditions alive despite COVID limitations. We'd love to hear from you about what is important to your children and we welcome your input on ways to reimagine spring events.

Announcing...

[COVID-19 Plan](#) - Please visit the [COVID-19 TAB](#) of our website for the most up-to-date information on the district's continuously evolving plan for educating our students under this pandemic. We have received and incorporated feedback from staff, students and the community. This latest update takes feedback, as well as the educational, social-emotional and health/safety needs, current guidelines and community infection levels, into account and comes with the support of the Rumson Board of Education for the following initiatives:

From the COVID-19 tab, you will find the updates in the [Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan for 2020-2021 Under COVID- 19](#), updated 2.24.21:

- 1. Full-day instruction (pgs. 3-10)**
- 2. Updates on existing and revised quarantine procedures (pgs. 34-38)**

Thanks to the dedication and efforts of our administration and staff, and the community's continued understanding of the guidelines and procedures, we are excited to share the steady progress towards a safe return to full-day instruction.

To learn more about these updates, ask questions and provide input, please join one of our Parent Academies.

Parent Academy

On Thursday, February 25th and on Thursday, March 4th, we are offering virtual Parent Academies to share with the community our journey through the pandemic and map out a vision for the days that lie ahead. At this meeting, I will share information on the following topics:

1. Return to full-day instruction on April 12
2. Updates on quarantine procedures
3. Rationale on post-Spring Break virtual week
4. Information on student gap analysis processes and associated summer programs as a bridge to our September 20th opening of the 21-22 school year

Please 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>

Full Day Plan - On **April 12, 2021** the district will resume **full day in-person instruction** from 8:30am - 3:05pm daily. Further details will be coming from your school principals, Ms. Feeney and Mrs. Gibbons.

Virtual Week, April 5th- April 9th - Knowing that many of our families are engaging in much needed travel over the Spring Break, the district has designed our return to full days to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in each and every school day.

Under the updated quarantine procedures, anyone **traveling outside of NJ who returns to NJ on or before April 2nd will not need to quarantine** to return to school on Monday, April 12th. (This meets the 10 day quarantine requirement under the CDC.)

Anyone **traveling and returning to NJ on or after April 3rd will need to have a negative PCR test** reported to the school district if they intend to return on Monday, April 12th. This PCR test must be **administered no sooner than 5 days after your return to NJ**. (This meets the 7 day quarantine with a test requirement under the CDC.) To support this effort, either:

- Schedule your PCR test now to secure an appointment, OR
- We are planning to have a drive-up PCR test site that will be hosted at Forrestdale School on Thursday, April 8th in collaboration with the Borough of Rumson

More information to come on this drive-up PCR opportunity being arranged in partnership between the Rumson School District and the Borough of Rumson.

Quarantine Adjustments - Below is an abbreviated list of quarantine updates that are found in the [Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan for 2020-2021 Under COVID- 19](#), updated 2.24.21 on pgs. 34-37:

- Close Contacts of a COVID+ Individual Within School - 10 day quarantine or 7 day quarantine with a PCR test no sooner than day 5 of the quarantine
- Close Contacts of a COVID+ Individual Outside of School - 14 day quarantine until Monmouth County achieves a yellow/moderate COVID level, then it will follow the same as the “Within School” quarantine
- Travel - 10 day quarantine or 7 day quarantine with a PCR test no sooner than day 5 of the quarantine

These take effect immediately. We will be adjusting current quarantines accordingly and contacting parents.

NJSLA State Testing - The NJ Department of Education has submitted a waiver request to the federal government to eliminate state testing for this school year. We anticipate hearing the results and will report out to you. It is the position of the Rumson Board of Education and Administration that, due to our desire to not lose instructional seat time to testing and because the district has strong sources of locally collected data on student performance, participation in state testing this school year is not appropriate or necessary.

Referendum & Facility Projects - There are two phases to our referendum project.

Phase 1 - Multipurpose Room Addition - This addition between Deane-Porter School and Forrestdale School is clearly developing. From its inception, this portion of the project was not slated to be completed until December 2021. Therefore this portion of the project has no bearing on the September 20th scheduled opening for the 2021-2022 school year.

Phase 2 - Renovations Inside Deane-Porter and Forrestdale School - These projects include closing the open classrooms at DP, installing new HVAC systems for heat and air conditioning throughout the district, renovations to the media centers in both schools, renovations to the science labs at Forrestdale, and flooring and painting improvements throughout the buildings. These projects cannot begin until school is dismissed on June 8th. The extent of these projects is why the summer of 2021 was expanded and the project management was designed to ensure completion within this window. While some preparation stages of this work are being done after hours the bulk of this work will begin the day students get out of school.