



MULLICA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mrs. Donna Leshner
Elementary School Principal

Mr. Andrew Weber
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Karen Gfroehrer
Business Administrator

Mrs. Maris Lynn
Middle School Principal

Home of the Coyotes

Mr. Scott Sarraiocco
Supervisor of Curriculum & Data

Dear Parents,

Throughout the past few months the district has gone to great lengths to develop a reopening plan in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education's The Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education (RBS). That RBS Plan was presented to the public on August 7, 2020, approved by the Board and certified by the Atlantic County Executive County Superintendent. Our plan afforded the opportunity to pivot to a different instructional model based upon current health conditions, updated NJDOE or NJDOH guidance, or new Executive Orders from Governor Murphy.

The health and safety of our staff, students, and families is our top priority and we will continue to operate with health and safety as our guiding principles. As communicated on Tuesday, September 1st, elements of what appears to be surface mold were discovered during Chromebook pick up. As a result, the distribution of Chromebooks was stopped, Chromebooks were returned to school, and the district solicited the services of a professional cleaning contractor (AllRisk) to thoroughly clean and disinfect the Chromebooks. The services of Epic Environmental were engaged to begin testing areas of the building. Time is needed to thoroughly test the building, obtain results, and implement the necessary cleaning/remediation protocols if surface mold is confirmed.

In addition, the district is working with our professionals to review the HVAC system to ensure proper balancing, as mold spores tend to grow and blossom when conditions are humid, dusty or moist. As you know the District experienced a four day power outage in August which may have led to the HVAC creating a humid environment.

Simply put: more time is needed to ensure the health and well-being of our staff, students, and their families. Given this information, a September 14th opening for in-person instruction is not possible. We have decided the Mullica Township School District will begin the 2020-2021 school year with all remote instruction with an anticipated return to our in-person hybrid model of instruction on October 12, 2020.

We do not make this decision lightly. We understand this decision will disappoint our students who are excitedly anticipating returning to school to see friends, meet their teacher, and engage in school activities. We are also disappointed that we have to make this decision and we will take steps to ensure that our Mullica virtual educational experience will be as exciting as we can make it for our students when they start school virtually on September 14th.

We will continue to communicate with you regarding the status of the school and our plans moving forward. In the meantime, you can expect additional information next week regarding Chromebook pick-up, the distribution of student materials, and school specific updates from your child's principal.

Thank you in advance for your understanding,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Weber".

Andrew Weber
Superintendent of Schools