



MULLICA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mrs. Donna Leshner
Elementary School Principal

Mr. Andrew Weber
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Karen Gfroehrer
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Mrs. Maris Lynn
Middle School Principal

Home of the Coyotes

Mr. Scott Sarraiocco
Supervisor of Curriculum & Data

December 11, 2020

Dear School Community,

I hope you are safe and doing well. Monday, December 14th marks the start of trimester two and the beginning of our instructional changes. Below are a few highlights and updates to note.

School Status

As I am sure you are aware, some districts in Atlantic County recently announced plans to pivot to all virtual instruction for an extended period of time. As a result of the hard work, cooperation, and overall commitment of everyone, we have been able to remain open for in-person instruction. By wearing masks, practicing proper hand hygiene, and maintaining as much social distancing as possible, we have had zero close contacts with students. In fact, of our 4 reported cases, all have been a result of situations outside of the school.

The decision to pivot to all virtual instruction is difficult, but based on data and NJDOH guidelines. The New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools, click [HERE](#), provides guidance for local health departments and schools. Additionally, the weekly COVID-19 Activity Level Index, click [HERE](#), is used by the NJDOH to determine regional risk levels. The report has placed our region in Orange/high risk for the past three weeks. Should we move to the Red/Very High risk status, we are required to pivot to all virtual instruction.

The other scenario which would cause us to go all virtual is the ability to provide a safe and efficient learning environment. Should we face a situation where we lack the necessary staff to safely and effectively operate school or we have a cluster of positive cases, we will switch to all virtual learning.

To date, we have not faced those situations. However, I feel it is important for our school community to understand what may cause us to change our plans in the future. For now, we will remain open for in-person instruction.

Trimester Two changes

At present, we are moving forward with our plans to return more students to in-person instruction starting December 14th. Highlights include:

- Four days of in-person instruction for special education and ELL students
- Synchronous learning for all students in grades 1-8
- Three days of in-person instruction on alternating weeks for all other students beginning January 19th

Yesterday, building principals communicated additional information regarding these changes, as well as, updated virtual learning expectations. Any questions regarding the changes can be directed to your child's principal.

Wellness Newsletter

As a reminder, you have until December 17th to sign up for the monthly health specialist newsletter. This month's theme is Family Bonding and 3 themed gift baskets will be raffled off to families who subscribe to the newsletter. You can subscribe [HERE](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we all do our part to keep school open and work toward returning more students to in-person learning.

Stay safe and be well,

Andrew Weber
Superintendent of Schools