

Chesterfield Township School District

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Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

Happy Thursday! If you love the snow, this winter has certainly been a good one. If you don't, spring is just around the corner. Either way, this afternoon was a good day to get outside and enjoy the snow.

On Wednesday, February 17th, the Board of Education held their first budget work session. As you know, last month the Board agreed to hold their budget development discussions this year during public work session meetings rather than in subcommittee. Last night, Mr. Polo and I presented the details of the 2021-2022 School Year budget based on our historical data and our major initiatives for next year. As a school district, each year we identify our major initiatives for the following school year during the budget development process to ensure we properly budget for those initiatives. In today's letter, I want to highlight one of those major initiatives.

Over the last two months, Mr. Polo and I have been working with the administrative team to develop a budget for the 2021-2022 School Year. One of our major initiatives for September 2021 is our instructional programming during the pandemic. The New Jersey Department of Education has indicated that we need to be prepared for conditions similar to what we are experiencing right now in the pandemic. For example, providing students with the option for fully remote instruction, following guidelines that include the wearing of masks and social distancing, as well as other health and safety mitigation strategies.

From a budgetary standpoint, instructional programming during the pandemic is a major initiative that will require proper financial support. As was explained last night, our goal for September is to provide our students with two choices: a fully in-person instructional model and a fully remote instructional model. We plan to move away from the hybrid instructional model. We've learned from our experiences thus far in the school year and believe we can build upon the successes of the fully in-person instructional model that we are currently using in kindergarten and first grade and apply it to all grade levels. In our planning for September, our goal is to also move to a full day in the fully in-person instructional model.

Although it is still several months away, I know parents are interested in what September will look like for their children. It is too early to have a final plan, but I do hope this letter provides parents with the understanding of where we plan to move as we approach the new school year.

The COVID-19 Weekly Health Report for the month of February is below. As a reminder, historical data from September 2020 – January 2021 can be found by clicking on this link <https://www.chesterfieldschool.com/Page/2902>.

COVID-19 Weekly Health Report

Week of.....	# of Positive Cases in School	# of Students/Staff Sent Home Due to Symptoms	# of Students/Staff Quarantined & Why	# of Incidents of Non-Compliance
Feb. 1 st	3	0	3 students (positive) 2 students quarantine (close contact household) 1 class quarantine (close contact) 3 staff quarantine (close contact)	0
Feb. 8 th	2	0	1 student quarantine (close contact household) 1 student quarantine (positive case) 1 staff quarantine (close contact) 1 staff quarantine (positive case) 1 staff excluded (symptomatic)	0
Feb. 15 th	0	0	2 students quarantine (travel) 1 staff quarantine (travel) 1 staff excluded (close contact presumed positive)	0

Sincerely,

Scott Heino

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