

Chesterfield Township School District

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November 19, 2020

Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

I hope everyone is doing their best to keep healthy and safe during our current COVID-19 outbreak. I also want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Although not the Thanksgiving we all were hoping for, it is still a time to spend with immediate family. I apologize in advance for repeating one of my messages from last week, but as we see the increase in positive COVID-19 cases in our state, as well as throughout our country, I want to remind everyone of the importance of adhering to all health and safety protocols. Our goal as a school district is to keep our school open for in-person learning which requires the cooperation of all students, staff, and parents. If you travel to a location outside of New Jersey that requires you to quarantine, please adhere to those guidelines and quarantine. We know during the upcoming holidays families tend to travel and we need to all do our part to remain healthy and safe for our school community. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

As the number of positive cases grows, the potential for the district to transition back to the Fully Virtual Instructional Model for all students also grows. However, as you know, our school has proven to be a safe place for our students and staff during the pandemic. I credit the entire school community for working together to ensure our students and staff remain healthy and safe in the building. As a district, we will continue to follow the guidance and recommendations of the Department of Health. The New Jersey Department of Health publishes data that includes a matrix to identify regions of the State as Low Risk, Moderate Risk, High Risk and Very High Risk. As of today, the matrix has identified our region of the State as High Risk. Based on the guidance, schools in a Moderate Risk region should consider a mixture of remote and/or hybrid learning approaches, and/or fully remote learning. A High Risk region should consider implementing fully remote learning and schools in a Very High Risk region should implement fully remote learning. As a district we will continue to follow the guidance of the Department of Health and consult with the health professionals as the status of our region changes. Again, currently our school has proven to be safe for our students and staff and that is a major factor in deciding on whether to move towards the fully virtual model for all students. When making these decisions, we will consider our student population and explore options to remain open to in-person instruction for specific student groups when possible, similar to how we started the school year with a small number of students attending in-person instruction. As of now, there are no plans to move away from our current instructional models.

I am happy to report the district will be opening a parent portal to provide parents with access to student evaluation data. In past years, this data would be mailed home or reported out to parents at different times during the school year. By opening the parent portal, the data will be available to parents

throughout the entire school year. Please keep an eye out for more detailed information on how to access the parent portal.

One final note for today: parents please ensure your child is logging in for afternoon instruction. Whether it is a related arts/special area class or small group instruction, these are critical components of our instructional models. Our instructional models and schedule are based on a full day of instruction. Students who do not login for afternoon meetings are missing critical instruction, especially small group meetings where teachers are able to work with students on skills and concepts specific to a child’s needs. Afternoon instruction is equally important as morning instruction. Thank you for supporting us as a school district as our teachers continue to plan lessons each afternoon to meet the needs of the students.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will no Thursday letter next week. The next Thursday letter will be sent home on Thursday, December 3rd. The Weekly Health Report is below:

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
Sept. 28 ^m	0	0	0	0
Oct. 5 th	0	1 student	2 students (symptomatic) 1 staff (close contact)	0
Oct. 12 th	0	1 student 2 staff	1 staff (close contact) 2 staff (symptomatic)	0
Oct. 19 ^m	0	0	0	0
Oct. 26 th	0	0	1 staff (close contact)	0
Nov. 2 nd	0	1 student	1 student (close contact) 1 staff (close contact)	0
Nov. 9 th	0	1 student	1 student (close contact) 1 student (symptomatic) 4 students (travel) 1 staff (close contact) 2 staff (travel)	0
Nov. 16 th	1 (remote)	0	1 student (close contact) 2 students (symptomatic) 4 students (travel) 2 staff (travel) 2 staff (close contact)	0

Sincerely,

Scott Heino

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