

Chesterfield Township School District

30 Saddle Way
Chesterfield, NJ 08515



Tel: 609-298-6900 x1230
Fax: 609- 291-0620

Scott Heino
sheino@chesterfieldschool.com
www.chesterfieldschool.com

March 18, 2021

Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

Last night the Chesterfield Township School District Board of Education approved the preliminary budget for the 2021-2022 School Year. The next step in the budget process is to submit the approved budget to the New Jersey Department of Education for approval. On Wednesday, April 28th, the final budget will be presented at the public hearing at 7:00 PM. The 2021-2022 Budget represents the fourth consecutive year residents will see a decrease in the tax rate for the Chesterfield Township School District while maintaining all staff and programs. As we move into the 2021-2022 School Year, the budget supports five major initiatives:

1. Return to full day, 5-day per week instruction for all students;
2. Additional support to address learning gaps due to the pandemic;
3. Implementation of the newly-revised English Language Arts Curriculum;
4. Staff training in the Understanding by Design framework;
5. Strategic planning.

Also, at last night's BOE meeting, I shared the timetable for expanding in-person learning for the remainder of the school year. The expansion of in-person learning will begin on Monday, April 19th. We strategically made the decision to start on April 19th to avoid any COVID related issues that may arise during the week after spring recess. The timetable is set as follows:

Week of March 8th

- Review survey data
- Based on survey data, identify plan for each grade level
- Share planning with staff Restart and Recovery Committee

Week of March 15th

- Based on grade level plans, finalize individual student placements
- Identify changes in staffing and notify teachers
- Identify changes in use of facility
- Notify NB of transportation changes

Week of March 22nd

- Confirm student placements
- Prepare new classroom spaces (library, computer labs, instrumental room, music room, WL room)
- Revise arrival and dismissal procedures

Week of March 29th

- Complete all final preparations

Week of April 12th

- Notify parents of arrival and dismissal changes
- Notify parents of transportation changes

As soon as we have finalized the plan for April 19th, we will notify all parents. Our hope is to provide this information to you late next week or early during the week of March 29th. We are doing everything we can to provide the 5-day a week in-person option at all grade levels. However, I want to be clear, our plan continues to be based on student numbers and we won't have a final decision on our upper grades until we confirm all student placements. The key factors in the planning include:

- Maintaining all current health and safety protocols including 6-foot social distancing and the mask requirement.
- Adjustments in arrival and dismissal procedures to accommodate the increase in students each day.
- Maintaining current early dismissal schedule with virtual small groups and specials in the afternoon.
- Avoiding the week after Spring Recess for our start date due to staff and student travel and the possibility of quarantining.

The COVID-19 Weekly Health Report for the month of March is below. As a reminder, historical data from September 2020 – February 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
Mar. 1 st	0	0	1 staff quarantine (travel)	1
Mar. 8 th	0	0	1 staff quarantine (close contact household) 1 staff excluded (household member symptomatic)	0
Mar. 15 th	2	0	2 students quarantine (travel)	0

			2 students quarantine (close contact household)	
			3 students quarantine (close contact)	
			1 student quarantine (positive case)	
			1 staff quarantine (positive case)	
			3 staff quarantine (close contact)	
			2 staff excluded (pending results)	

Sincerely,

Scott Heino

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