



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes required for success in a rapidly changing world.



November 12, 2020

Good afternoon Suffield Public Schools Community,

Although not unexpected, COVID-19 cases continue to trend upward throughout communities across the state and country. I remain very hopeful that this resurgence will be short-lived and the transmission less impactful due to the mitigating strategies our health officials have identified and recommended that we all follow. With the recent spike in positive cases across the region and our health metrics reaching levels not seen since last spring, it is important that we raise awareness about our current circumstances and the district's response to this evolving situation.

In regards to our district's operational status, the Suffield Public Schools will remain in our hybrid status until further notice. I share this important information with you as our current health metrics suggest less in-person learning if our trends continue over time. Please note *Addendum 4 - Updated Guidance for Decision-Making Regarding the Use of In-Person, Hybrid (Blended), or Remote Learning Models in Connecticut Schools during COVID-19* ([click here](#)). This past Wednesday, district administration reviewed our operational status in response to increasing positivity rates with our health officials. Our ability to socially distance due to population density within our schools and classrooms, staffing levels, and the safety measures we continue to implement, we do not believe that a shift to full remote status is necessary at this time. However, it is important we remain mindful that this is an evolving situation and could impact our operational status at any time.

As we have done since March, the Suffield Public Schools will continue to prioritize engaging with our families during this health crisis. There is tremendous value in having an open line of communication with our community, as it serves to inform the decisions we are making on a regular basis. In keeping with our commitment to communicate, we will resume our hosting of periodic Parent Zoom Conference Calls beginning next Friday. Next week's Parent Conference Calls will be kept to one hour, hosted at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, and provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions. Unlike last spring, parents of elementary and secondary students can attend either conference call. We may need to change this for future meetings, but next Friday's message at both meetings will be germane to elementary and secondary levels. Please note the following conference call login information for next Friday, November 20, 2020.

Parent Zoom Conference Call (AM)

Friday, November 20, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82090232192?pwd=b05rdERDNTB0MzJ4TndTZ0YvaTdXdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 9023 2192
Passcode: ug4UtR
Dial by your location
1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 820 9023 2192
Passcode: 175747

Parent Zoom Conference Call (PM)

Friday, November 20, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86328332464?pwd=VmtxTlI2ZDFtalpzaHI2Y1N0c1Njdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 2833 2464
Passcode: Q6ir9y
Dial by your location
1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 863 2833 2464
Passcode: 500302

I would like to conclude this correspondence by saying thank you to our families for all that you are doing in support of the Suffield Public Schools. I also encourage you to continue the fight against this virus. COVID-19 has proven that it is capable of having far greater impact to school districts than we have experienced in Suffield, and I attribute our success to your intentionality and persistence in keeping our community safe. I realize my frequent statements of gratitude are sometimes perceived as too much – but we need to continue to support and thank one another in the weeks and months ahead. I look forward to seeing you next Friday, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Van Tassel
Superintendent of Schools