



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

December 2, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff:

Over the last few months, it has always been our goal to provide a classroom environment that allows our students to achieve educational excellence. Naturally, the pandemic has created a variety of key challenges which include:

- Ensuring a safe classroom environment for students and staff.
- Ensuring we meet the health and safety guidelines that have been established by county, state, and federal agencies.
- Ensuring we have adequate staff on hand to provide instruction to our students (at present we have over 40 teachers in quarantine).
- Ensuring that students and staff adhere to recommended protocols to minimize the spread of infection *outside the school environment* because those incidents have been the primary source of infection among our students and staff members.

The District has implemented many remediation measures to create a safe learning environment. We have not had any incidents of the spread of the virus that can be attributed to the school environment. Thus, we are prepared to welcome students and staff members back to our buildings on December 7th. We will continue with the hybrid schedule as introduced in September. On December 14th, however, the District intends to shift to full-time, in-class instruction (students will still have the option to attend virtually as well). More details will be released shortly, as they will vary from building to building. Parents should anticipate that elementary-level students will be attending school full time, while students attending Satz and the High School will most likely have in-class instruction in the morning and virtual instruction in the afternoon.

It is imperative that our school community (students, staff members, parents) understand how their behavior (i.e. not wearing a mask and/or attending indoor gatherings) contributes to the spread of the COVID virus and impacts our ability to keep our schools open. We appreciate your efforts to encourage strict adherence to the CDC guidelines and avoidance of those situations that increase the likelihood of contracting the virus. Further, please keep your child home if he/she is exhibiting symptoms that are consistent with the COVID virus (fever, cough, body aches, etc.) [Additionally, it is imperative that families report any positive cases of COVID to the school nurse\(s\) of your child's respective school.](#)

Should you have any specific questions related to the reopening of schools next Monday, please refer those questions to your child's building principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lee Seitz, Interim Superintendent of Schools