

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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March 12, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

This week's message is brief as staff and students have settled back into their in person schedules and routines. After a year of the pandemic we are slowly turning the corner and getting back to some resemblance of normalcy.

Nonetheless, we cannot overlook the fact that a significant number of classes, students and staff were quarantined this week. Please continue to be vigilant in school, at home, and in the community by following all recommended mitigation strategies. Most important among these guidelines is to remain home if any signs or symptoms of illness are present, or if you have been exposed to an ill or COVID positive individual. Please do not send your children to school if they exhibit signs of illness, even if those symptoms seem mild. Additionally, if you or your child have been "contact traced," please honor the quarantine by avoiding any activities that may expose others to the virus.

The District, community and health officials worked diligently together to provide the conditions for our students to return to full in person learning as quickly as possible. In doing so, it is our fervent hope that families will take advantage of in person learning. The remote learning option is not intended to be a daily choice, a provision for travelling while school is in session or as a way to avoid quarantining for the purpose of participating in athletics.

Last week the Governor indicated his intent to lift some COVID travel restrictions. Upon review of the new pending flexibilities expected to commence on March 19, the District will follow the state guidelines and will not require students to test upon returning from other states.

Planning is underway for end of the year student celebrations. We are hopeful to be able to provide most of the events in person in some modified fashion...we may even keep some of last year's traditions too! We will finalize these arrangements over the next several weeks.

A year later, as we slowly transition back to our daily routines, the sound of music in our schools and children laughing and playing together outside in the sunshine are reminders of the simple things that we missed and value the most.

I hope you get to experience and appreciate some simple but cherished experiences this weekend!

Sincerely,



Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D
Superintendent