

## Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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March 5, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

We were thrilled this week to welcome all students back to in person learning as the last phase of our return to school plan. Teachers were excited to have their students back in class and students were happy to be back with their friends. Thank you to our Hindley community as they navigated a remote learning day this week in order to allow contact tracing to be completed.

The return to school has aligned nicely with the plan to vaccinate our staff today and tomorrow. We are greatly appreciative for the efforts of the Darien Health Department and our nurses in providing dedicated vaccination clinics. Having all staff vaccinated will contribute to a safer school environment for students and staff.

Being vaccinated does not mean that we become complacent with health and safety protocols. We will continue to wear masks, maintain appropriate physical distances and adhere to handwashing and cleaning protocols. Please continue similar practices at home and in the community. If I can emphasize one message this week it is **please do not send your child(ren) to school if they exhibit signs of illness**. Quarantining large numbers of students and staff can often be attributed to attending school while being sick. Please take every precaution to keep yourself and others safe as we navigate what we hope to be the final months of COVID.

The continued positive trends in health and safety data allows us to permit two parents per player to attend DHS home athletic events. Yesterday the Governor lifted some COVID restrictions. We are reviewing these restrictions with our public health officials for any school policy implications.

As the end of the school year approaches, conversations and planning are underway regarding how best to recognize students' educational milestones and transitions. District and school leaders will work with health officials as more information is made available by the Governor and the CT Department of Public Health.

Being back together, having access to vaccinations and the longer days of sunshine continue to offer optimism and excitement across our schools. The past year has demanded so much of everyone and we have much to be proud of in Darien. Thank you for your continued support as members of our community are vaccinated and we see a slow return to the world we once knew.

Enjoy the weekend,

Sincerely,



Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D  
Superintendent