

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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March 19, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Tomorrow marks the start of spring, a time of year for optimism and new beginnings. The added sunshine of the new season is a reminder of brighter days ahead as we trend favorably toward a post pandemic way of living.

While the continued steady decrease in the number of positive cases is certainly noteable, we are not by any means immune to virus cases and quarantines in Darien. Please continue to be vigilant in school, at home, and in the community by following all recommended mitigation strategies and honor all those practices we know to be best for the safety of our entire community.

Our staff and students have persevered this past year in a variety of learning modes. Now that all the schools are fully in person, we ask that your children participate in this mode of learning unless there are prohibitive circumstances. We know in person learning is best for students and we ask for your support in providing that access to as many students as possible. The option for remote learning 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.

A special thank you to our elementary staff and parents for participating in another successful wave of remote parent teacher conferences. This approach has proven to be effective and will perhaps remain as an option in a post-pandemic Darien.

Effective today, the CT Travel Advisory becomes a recommendation. All Connecticut residents and travelers to Connecticut should follow travel-related guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#) (DPH). As mandates and requirements are not currently in place in Connecticut, the District will no longer request proof of negative test results following travel. We strongly encourage all travelers to familiarize themselves with and follow the recommendations as outlined by the CDC and DPH in order to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all.

Today, the CDC released revised physical distancing recommendations to reflect at least 3 feet between students in classrooms and 6 feet at lunch. These practices are already in place.

In the spring season, we are pleased to extend the number of spectators for all games to two parents for each Darien athlete and two parents for each athlete on the visiting team.

End of year event planning is underway. With today's release of the new Sector Rules for graduation, we are anticipating offering some version of in person celebrations for our students. These arrangements will be finalized and communicated over the next few weeks by building principals.

May the spring "sun shine warmly upon you" and your loved ones this weekend!

Sincerely,



Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools