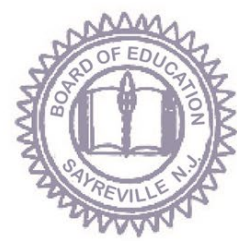




Sayreville Public Schools

Vision 2030

P.O. Box 997
Sayreville, New Jersey 08871
Phone: 732-525-5200
Fax: 732-727-5769



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Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Talk Sup Week 14 Review and Preview

December 7, 2020

Good morning Sayreville and welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup*. I hope you had a relaxing weekend. Please remember that **this afternoon** there will be **no teacher office hours** so that our faculty can participate in professional development activities.



This past week we learned the sad news that Kelli Leli (maiden name Seaman), a former Sayreville student, was tragically killed in a non-combat related accident in the United Arab Emirates, where she was stationed while serving as a physician in the United States Air Force. Her husband, who is also in the Air Force and was in Afghanistan at time of her death, accompanied her body home last week from Dover, Delaware. Representatives from the Air Force at Maguire Air Force Base in

Burlington County presented him and her family with the Gold Star, which is awarded to the families of service members who were killed or died while serving in the Armed Forces. It recognizes the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation. Dr. Leli attended the Truman Elementary School, Sayreville Middle School, and Sayreville War Memorial High School for one year where she excelled in the classroom and on the basketball court. After her first year at SWMHS, she transferred to the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, where she eventually graduated in 2010.

Along with the cases that I reported to you and the entire community last week, yesterday we received notification that an individual from the Food Services Department and an individual from both the Samsel Upper Elementary School (SUES) and the Eisenhower Elementary School have tested positive for COVID-19. After conducting contact tracing in accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines, several individuals from our Food Services Department were determined to be in close contact with the infected individual and therefore will be directed to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of contact with that person. By this time, these people should have been formally notified. No individuals from SUES or Eisenhower were determined to be in close contact with the person who was infected at each school.

As per the broadcast email that I sent you last Saturday, in nearly all the cases that were reported to you by me this past week, there is contact-tracing evidence to support that they were the result of the expected Thanksgiving holiday surge. Speaking of contact-tracing and my reporting of cases, please understand that the purpose of my notifications are to ensure transparency with regard to the positive cases that are being reported to us that may impact the staff and students who participate in in-person instruction. Recently, people have asked me to identify in my broadcast emails whether the person was infected in or outside of school. Not only is this not the purpose of my emails, it is also not the primary purpose of contact tracing. Rather the contact tracing that we perform is primarily conducted in order for us to identify and isolate individuals who have been infected, and then identify, quarantine, and notify any individuals that we determine to be in close contact with the infected individual so that we can potentially prevent an outbreak.

In fact, the determination of where a person is likely to have been infected is made by the NJDOH, not the school district. However, when we have an infection, we naturally work in conjunction with them by reporting the contact tracing data that we collect. They then use that information and the data they possess, which we are not authorized to receive, to make a determination of whether it was likely that the transmission occurred in our schools. Although the

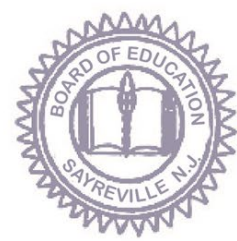
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vast majority of time we are confident that the infection happened outside of school based upon the exposure information provided to us by the infected individual, we are not permitted to make that determination nor to communicate it until the case has been vetted and the determination has been made by the NJDOH. Nonetheless, based upon the reported positive case and close contact data that is noted on both the our Student and Staff COVID-19 Dashboards, which are located on the School Safety and Security of our website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#), I can report to you that of the current 70 positive cases that we have had this school year, which represents less than 1% of the students and staff in our district, the department of health determined that only one likely occurred in a school and two likely occurred during an outdoor athletic activity. Thus, to date, less than 5% of the reported cases in our district are likely to have occurred in a school and/or during a school sponsored program.

As I have expressed previously, and as recently noted by Dr. Anthony Fauci, as well as Governors Murphy and Cuomo respectively, the reason for the seemingly low transmission level in schools, as opposed to other places, is purported to be primarily the result of the level of personal protective procedure compliance demonstrated by staff and students, particularly the wearing of masks and social distancing. In fact, as someone who has spent extensive amounts of time in our schools, particularly the high school and middle school, I must say how impressed and inspired I am with how compliant our students and staff members have been. Moreover, I have been amazed by how masterfully our teachers have been performing hybrid or simultaneous instruction for their remote and in-person learners despite all the challenges that they face day in and day out. Furthermore, knowing that they and all of our staff members are naturally very concerned about the potential of being infected, their demonstration of selfless dedication is a clear indicator of the level of commitment our staff has for the students they serve so remarkably. Thus, along with other frontline workers, the efforts of all our staff members are truly heroic.



This week our students in grades K-5 will continue to participate in Phase 2_b of hybrid instruction while students in grades 6-12 Cohort A and B remain in Phase 2_a. However, as per my email last Thursday, due to the limited number of grades 6-12 students who are attending the middle school and high school on each single cohort day each week, and because we want to now provide all these students with at least two days of in-person instruction a week, beginning this week the students in **Grades 6-12 Cohort A and B** will be able to attend school on both days of in-person instruction weekly regardless of which cohort they are in. We will continue to allow this until a time in which doing so increases class sizes above 15, which is what the NJDOH recognizes as above reduced capacity for a standard sized classroom.

Therefore, tomorrow students in grades K-5 Cohort B will attend school for in-person instruction on Monday, December 7th and Thursday, December 10th, while K-5 Cohort A does so on Tuesday, December 8th and Friday, December 11th. Likewise, students in grades 6-12 Cohorts **A&B** will participate in in-person instruction on Tuesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 10th. Naturally, students in Cohort C (preschool and MD/BD self-contained classrooms) will attend school for in-person instruction on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Below please find the calendar through the end of December.

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DECEMBER				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7 K-5 COHORT B & C	8 6-12 COHORT A, B, & C K-5 COHORT A & C	<u>December 9</u> Remote instruction for <u>all</u> students	10 6-12 COHORT A, B, & C K-5 COHORT B & C	11 K-5 COHORT A & C
14 K-5 COHORT B & C	15 6-12 COHORT A, B, & C K-5 COHORT A & C	<u>December 16</u> Remote instruction for <u>all</u> students	17 6-12 COHORT A, B, & C K-5 COHORT B & C	18 K-5 COHORT A & C
21 6-12 COHORT A, B, & C K-5 COHORT B & C	22 6-12 COHORT A, B, & C K-5 COHORT A & C	<u>December 23</u> Remote instruction for <u>all</u> students	24 Schools Closed for Holiday Recess	25 Schools Closed for Holiday Recess

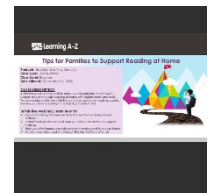
To review information about our Restart of School Plan, including our updated FAQs, click [here](#).



This past week our students, staff, and community members continued to impress us with their amazing accomplishments. We begin by congratulating SWMHS Boys Soccer player Matias Rosario for being selected to the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) All-White Division Team and the All-GMC Team. Likewise, we congratulate and commend teammates Nick Czjakowski and Abass Rahim for also being selected to the All-White Division Team. In addition, we commend and congratulate SWMHS senior Hussain Zaidan on his acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, we commend Christopher Watson, and Atiya Conry, Computer Science Teachers at SWMHS, who recently were awarded the Computer Science High School (CSHS) Computer Science Education Week (CSEDWeek) Outreach Grant through the district's newly formed Computer Science Honors Society. CSEDWeek is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity in computer science education, and to celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners to the field. Finally, we commend Audrey Burns, our Director of Early Childhood, and Kara Schlaline, our Supervisor of Special Education, who will be presenting a workshop entitled: Power of Inclusion, during the 3rd Annual Virtual Early Childhood Education Conference. Bomber Nation salutes these and all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!



This week the district will be offering our parents the opportunity to participate in two very important virtual workshops. The first, which is entitled Financial Aid Night, is being presented by the SWMHS Guidance Office and will take place this Tuesday evening at 7 pm via WebEx. For more information on it, click [here](#). The other is entitled Learning How to Use Learning A-Z Resources and is being

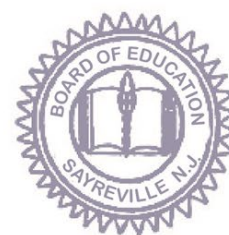


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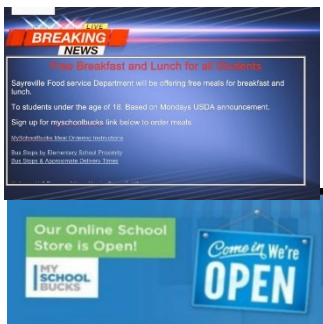
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presented by Parent University on Wednesday, December 16th at 6 pm. For more information on it, click [here](#).

As per our 2020-21 School District Calendar, which you can access by clicking [here](#), and the December Head of the Class Calendar, which you can see by clicking [here](#), please remember that there will be a **BOE Business Meeting** on **December 15th**. Please also remember that our schools will be **closed** and there will be **no in-person** nor **virtual instruction** from **December 24, 2020 through January 1, 2021** for the holiday recess. Furthermore, please note there will be **no office hours** today (**December 7th**) so that our staff can participate in professional development, and on **December 23rd** so that our staff members can prepare for the holiday weekend. Finally, please note that the **1st Marking Period** for students in grades **K-5** will **end** on **December 8th** and **Report Cards** for those students will be issued on **December 16th**. Likewise, **2nd Marking Period Progress Reports** for students in grades **6-12** will be issued on **December 17th**.



As was the case last spring, the district is now permitted to provide **FREE** meals for **ALL** parents who wish to order breakfast and/or lunch for their child(ren). Therefore, if you would like to order **FREE** prepackaged bagged breakfasts and lunches daily, please do so on **My School Bucks** by clicking [here](#). For more information on how to order through **My School Bucks**, [download the app](#), and to see the [delivery locations](#) as well as the [estimated times of delivery](#), click [here](#). Finally, to **apply for free and/or reduced lunch** for your child, click [here](#). Finally, if you have additional questions, please email Nancy Mannino (nancy.mannino@sayrevillek12.net), our director of Food Services.



If you or someone you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click [here](#) and submit an inquiry with *School Revenue Partners*. Naturally, we will continue to Bomber Blast activity information and community service announcements for our schools and the greater community at no cost. Likewise, if you would like to advertise on our **busses**, click [here](#). Lastly, if you or someone you know wants to **lease our facilities**, contact Deborah DeVico at deborah.devico@sayrevillek12.net.

Have a wonderful week!

Dr. Labbe