



BLIND BROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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PATRICK K. BRIMSTEIN, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 13, 2020

Thanksgiving Closure – under consideration

Dear Members of the Blind Brook School Community:

There has been much discussion among Westchester County school district leaders about potentially moving to fully remote learning for a brief time after Thanksgiving. The medical rationale for going remote is COVID transmission risk mitigation. Thanksgiving is associated with large indoor gatherings, interstate travel, and reintroduction of college students from across the nation, including many high-risk regions.

As such, conversations took place among the Blind Brook administration, Board of Education and Medical Advisory Committee regarding preemptive plans to go fully remote for 8 days after the Thanksgiving holiday (through December 9). This idea was presented during the PTA meeting on Thursday night to get additional feedback from parents. We received several emails today on the topic, and your generous feedback is appreciated!

The aim was to decide by Monday, November 16th to allow for optimal planning time for our educators. There are three main points going into the decision:

- COVID-19 poses serious health concerns and is on the rise in our community.
- Our goal is to balance the intellectual and emotional wellbeing of the students with their physical health needs.
- By avoiding a high-risk period of disease transmission immediately after Thanksgiving recess, we hope to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak that could last for many weeks. The short-term remote learning would ensure that the hybrid model would resume in early December for the foreseeable future without a prohibitive increase in cases.

Based on community feedback, we are going to hold off on making the decision about post-Thanksgiving remote learning until closer to the holiday. The extension will allow us to factor in more up-to-date and reliable information regarding community transmission of COVID-19 across Westchester County that may have the ultimate determining influence on the decision we can make.

I can assure you that the deliberative process is ongoing, and that your thoughts will be considered in the ultimate decision about how to best balance the physical, emotional, and intellectual wellbeing of all our students in our collective care.

Dr. Patrick Brimstein
Superintendent of Schools