

Moonachie Public Schools

ROBERT L. CRAIG SCHOOL
20 WEST PARK STREET
MOONACHIE, NEW JERSEY 07074

JAMES KNIPPER
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August 14, 2020

Moonachie Families & Friends –

The governor on Wednesday August 12th made another change to the mandates and guidelines. While he has now provided an option for full-remote, that option is only available to districts, based on a set of criteria, who cannot meet the guidelines set forth in the original 'Road Back' requirements. Please know that as of this writing, that criteria has not been provided. Once it is, our leadership team will review it and make any necessary adjustments needed. However, we are confident that our plan exceeds the reopening guidelines. Additionally, our district pediatrician has reviewed the plan and Nurse Gallo has been instrumental in its creation.

The NJ Department of Health has released the Public Health Recommendations For Schools on Thursday August 13th. They are being actively reviewed. I encourage everyone to review these guidelines.

As of now, we are planning to keep moving towards in-person reopening, with the following modifications.

With Regard to the First Quarter → 1 Session Days for In-Person Students

We have made the decision to make **the first quarter all 1-session-days (1pm dismissal) for all in-person students**. This decision was not made lightly. However, it is anchored in the health and safety of all students and staff based on new requirements by the state, specifically students wearing face coverings all day. One Session Days avoids asking students to remove their face covering to eat lunch in their classrooms and removes the variability of possible contact during recess. Lunch will be a 'grab and go' style at dismissal. We will make a decision on Marking Period 2 based on local health data.

With Regard to the First Week of School – September 8th-11th

Since remote learning is part of our quarantine/symptomatic/exposure plan, we need time to make sure every student and family is appropriately connected, signed up, and has access. Therefore, **Tuesday September 8th and Wednesday September 9th will be full-remote days for all students**. Teachers and our staff will use this time to introduce themselves to families, get everyone set up on Google Classroom, and ensure access is achieved for all students. This includes access to live instruction (Synchronous) and Google Classroom assignments (Asynchronous). **Live, in-person, instruction will then begin on Thursday September 10th.**

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With Regard to YMCA After School Programming

The YMCA After School Program will now be offered from 1pm-4pm for students in grades 3-8. Students will remain in the same classroom with the same cohort of students they have been with all day. Mixing of students will not occur. The YMCA program and staff will follow all requirements that the school follows. Registration for grades 3-8 is located here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJZwSz2RrKaTnGEZwznQBlCi2xG_6u0moYG_58Mg08QUUyCw/viewform or on our website <https://www.moonachieschool.org/> under Announcements.

With Regard To Busing

Unfortunately we are still working on receiving bids for our bus services. Thank you for your patience as the bus companies are still working out their own plans and availabilities.

With Regard to Town Hall Events

As the Governor has stated there will be updated criteria and has yet to provide the criteria, I will not be hosting a town hall on Monday or Tuesday. I will delay the Town Hall events until Wednesday. This gives our leadership team time to review the criteria (depending on when it is released) and analyze its contents before sharing information with the community. I will add more options to the following week, if needed. The sessions will be hosted at this link: https://meet.google.com/_meet/qjw-yutg-jjr

The sessions will be hosted at these days and times:

Wednesday August 19th – 6:30pm

Thursday August 20th – 1:00pm

Friday August 21st – 8:00am

With Regard To Remote Learning Option

Remote learning will be comprised of live-screen share of direct instruction (first 15-minutes) of each content area. Remote students will be able to see all new instruction via the Smart Board Screen Share. They will also be able to hear (audio only) the teacher. After the direct instruction (synchronous), students will proceed to Google Classroom to complete the assigned individual work (Asynchronous). The teacher will then be available from 1:45-3:00pm for direct feedback and individualized questions via Google Classroom for remote learners. We will send out a survey on Friday August 21st for families to choose full remote learning. Please remember, if your family chooses Remote Learning, you will be required to remain as a Remote Learner for at least the entire first marking period. If you know already this option is for your family, please inform Ms. Weigelt in the main office at 201-641-5833 of your intentions.

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With Regard To Updated Contact Information

Thank you to all who filled out the updated contact information form!! As of this writing we have received 287 responses out of approximately 330 students. Thank you so very much!! Our administrative assistants will be contacting those families directly whom we did not receive a response. If you have not filled it out and are able, it can be accessed here:

<https://forms.gle/uBmixMTCuYKmn7e9A>. Please fill out a separate survey for each student in your home.

With Regard to Home Technology & Access Survey

We will send out a home technology survey on Tuesday August 18th. This will give us important information in regards to your students access to laptops/tablets and WiFi at home.

With Regard To What To Expect and Preparing Your Student

Beginning August 24th, we will be publishing different videos to share with your children on what to expect during the school day.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school @ 201-641-5833 or via email at jknipper@moonachieschool.org. I will return all calls and e-mails within 24-hours of receipt. If I don't have the answer you are looking for based on current guidance, I will do my very best to research it and get back to you in a timely manner.

Again, Thank You for your patience and trust. Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Enjoy the rest of your summer. And Remember...Always Do Your Best, And That You Are Special.

Fondly,

James Knipper

James S. Knipper
Acting Superintendent/Principal
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Moonachie School District

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