

DELRAN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

52 Hartford Rd., Delran NJ, 08075

"dedicated to nurturing a supportive, student-centered environment where all people are treated with dignity and respect"

December 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the calendar year comes to close we look forward to returning to school on January 19, 2021 for our in-person hybrid program. Below is information relative to program modifications and enhancements being made to each school; meal programs; mental health services and high school athletics.

Academic Day

Starting on January 19, 2021, each academic day will operate on a single session of on-site, in-person programming, followed by dismissal and time for students to eat lunch at home and have school specific virtual instructional activities in the afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The Wednesday schedule will remain intact. While this represents a change for families, the schedule allows us to respond to our on-site experiences in the first marking period in a variety of ways:

Elimination of Lunch: The elimination of on site lunch, allows us to better avoid student and staff quarantines that took place during September, October and November. Our experience with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) has been that the activity of eating, even when socially distanced and full adherence to all health/safety protocols set forth by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and NJDOH, resulted in student/staff quarantines when in the general area of a COVID-positive individual. By eliminating lunch, we are also reducing potential exposure to future disruptions to our academic program.

Synchronous Learning: Linked schedules below will illustrate that remote students in grades 3-12 will learn synchronously along with their peers. Students that are home will be participating virtually in the live instruction that is taking place in our classrooms.

While Millbridge remains on the cohort model with asynchronous instruction approaches that have been in effect since our return in September, there will also be an expansion of virtual instruction for the at-home cohort each afternoon.

School Schedule Information

[Millbridge Elementary School](#)

[Delran Intermediate School](#)

[Delran Middle School](#)

[Delran High School](#)

Questions regarding academic schedules can be directed to your child's Principal in January upon their return to school.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Winter Athletics

Participation in our athletic season, particularly in the winter season, should be approached through the lens that every opportunity to participate is a blessing and reflects how fortunate the students athletes are. Every possession, every orchestrated cheer, every race, every roll of the bowling ball, and, yes, even every wrestling practice and match that takes place reflects a fortunate opportunity for student-athletes. If our experience in the fall season is any indication, our intention is for the student-athletes to enjoy each experience they have, as tomorrow's game, practice is not assured.

Student-athletes and their families should plan on having seasons begin as scheduled with the likelihood of unplayed scheduled games due to unforeseen COVID-19 matters. Additionally, Delran will not be playing in any county-wide events should they materialize (at this point they haven't) but we will fill the schedules out as best we, and our competition, can until the last day of the season as stated by the NJSIAA.

The NJSIAA has created a winter program where state championships do not exist in Season II or Season II-A (Season III has not been finalized regarding a post-season).

The beginning and end dates for the winter seasons as outlined below are firm and not negotiable by member schools according to the NJSIAA.

Season II (Cheer, Basketball, Bowling)

- Delran Virtual Workouts may begin: December 14
- Delran Official Virtual Practice begins: January 11
- Delran Official Indoor Practice begins: January 15
- NJSIAA End of Season: March 6

Season II-A (Swimming)

- Delran Virtual Workouts may begin: January 11
- Delran Official Practice begins: February 1
- NJSIAA End of Season: March 27

Season III (Wrestling)

- Delran Virtual Workouts may begin: February 1
- Delran Official Practice begins: March 1
- NJSIAA End of Season: April 24

Student Mental Health Program Information

Delran Township Public Schools was awarded a grant from the Camden County Educational Services Commission starting in January 2021 to provide counseling services to all qualified students in our district. The only stipulation of the grant is that the student must be Medicaid eligible or have Medicaid as their insurance provider.

A lead staff member has been established at each school. Starting in January, a staff member from your child's school will start reaching out to families to inquire if the parent is interested in receiving these services for their child. There are multidisciplinary criteria that will be used to establish the students that would be eligible for this program and services. All services are delivered at the school or via telehealth. Listed below are the lead staff members at each school:

- Millbridge: Christopher Corona
- Delran Intermediate School: Shannon Kemp
- Delran Middle School: Julia Stipa
- Delran High School: Jillian Daniels

The purpose of the grant is to promote a collaborative and integrated approach amongst the education and healthcare community to ensure students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally while confined to home learning mandates during the nation's current national emergency.

The mental health provider at the school level is called a transitional coach. The transitional coach provides an in-class and school-blended behavioral and motivational support system that is designed to promote student success.

Grant Highlights

- The program will initially support the coordination of behavioral health services utilizing Telehealth technology by licensed mental health professionals who will also coordinate academic-support activities in collaboration with school district designated program personnel.
- Once schools reopen, the program will support the placement of a mental health professional on school campuses.

The registration form for the students can be found [HERE](#).

If you have additional questions regarding the services provided in grant, please feel free to contact the program chair, Dr. Lisa Della Vecchia, Director of Student Services at ldellavecchia@delranschools.org or the program co-chair, Ms. Shannon Kemp, School Psychologist at skemp@delranschools.org.

Twilight Program

The district is offering a supplemental program after school for students who have demonstrated an academic need during the first marking period. Participation in this program is imperative as it relates to your child's academic success. This program will continue to be offered for the remainder of the school year.

Food Services and Distribution

All food service and distribution will continue for those who qualify for Wednesday distribution; regular communication will continue to follow from Brian Stolarick. Communication regarding student breakfast arrangements and a "grab and go" format to our student lunch program will be communicated with specifics in early January by each school.

COVID-19 Summary: District Remote Format

In total, 77% of the cases in the Township have occurred since September 1, 2020; the District share of cases is 10% based upon historical data. That means that for every 10 Township cases, 1 can be traced back to the District, triggering exclusion/quarantine protocols.

Since November 16, 2020 there have been 390 Township cases, which should have created 39 District cases based on the historical trend. However, during this timeframe 45 cases involved school aged children, above the Township trend. By being on a remote format we were able to avoid further disruptions to the academic program.

We are confident that the buffer between the winter recess and the January 19, 2021 resumption of our hybrid, in-person program will allow us to open safely with reduced disruption given the implemented changes to our schedule.

On behalf of the Delran Township Public Schools I wish you the happiest of holidays and a prosperous 2021. I am eager to see your children on site in our programs once again next month.

Sincerely,



Brian Brotschul, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools