



May 14, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to provide you with an update from the District.

CDC Face Covering Information

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidance relative to the face covering recommendation for fully vaccinated individuals. The updated guidance indicates that fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear masks in certain locations. At this time, the Delran Township Public Schools will continue to mandate the wearing of masks as per the *Restart and Recovery Plan*. Please note that our *Restart and Recovery Plan* was guided by four agencies: CDC; NJ Department of Health; Burlington County Health Department; New Jersey Department of Education. When I receive guidance from all four agencies, I will discuss any changes to the *Restart and Recovery Plan* and provide guidance accordingly.

COVID-19 Matters

The District staff has perfectly executed the collapse of a two cohort system as all on site learners have been merged into one group. This was possible due to the planning and foresight of school leadership teams and onsite staff members while providing productive insight as to needs at the school level.

The point of vaccination will likely impact the education sector. Should a parent elect to vaccinate their children I don't expect they will be subject to quarantine after exposure to a COVID-19 positive person once the 2021-2022 school year starts. Although not connected to the District, I would expect that local opportunities will develop for the vaccination of children should families wish to elect this option.

From a public health perspective, I closely monitor the rolling seven day average in Delran Township. As of May 10, 2021 that figure is 0.86 cases per day, down from a high of 16.00 on November 24, 2020.

End of Year Ceremonies

Based on information from the governor, Delran Middle School and Delran High School end of year graduation and promotion ceremonies will host increased capacities for families to attend in comparison to what was envisioned even one month ago. I expect to have more detailed information regarding event logistics by June 4, 2021.

Both ceremonies will be live streamed on our YouTube channel with enhanced sound and video services.

On June 18th, weather permitting, the senior class will tour Millbridge, DIS and DMS for outdoor “clap out” ceremonies which have become popular since its inception three years ago. More information will be forthcoming from Mr. Finkle.

2021-2022 School Budget

The Delran Township Board of Education adopted the [FY22 budget](#) on May 3, 2021. That plan includes the following:

- Maintains programs we have currently while avoiding \$666,872 in new taxes for the residents of Delran Township
- New positions that include reading specialists, math integrationists, Spanish at the K-5 level, bilingual Portuguese at Millbridge, additional counselors and special education positions at DMS and DHS.
- HVAC and Gymnasium ventilation work at Millbridge and DHS
- Curriculum enhancements
- Parking lot renovation at Millbridge

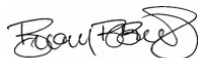
Of particular note regarding the FY22 budget has been the upward trend in the amount of state aid that the District receives in order to operate all of our wonderful programs. Upon my arrival in 2014 the District received 30% of what the school funding formula indicated it should receive; in 2021-2022 we have had our allocation nearly double through the advocacy efforts of current and past Board of Education members and Delran Township residents. The increase in direct state aid has afforded the Board of Education the opportunity to meet the needs of students comprehensively while minimizing the tax impacts for its residents.

Preparations for 2021-2022

The District will prepare a reopening plan as required by the NJDOE and forward a copy to District parents by June 24, 2021. While many of the concepts remain from our plan for the current school year, there will be an increased focus on the continued academic achievement for our students and any modifications we will implement for medically fragile students. If you would like to contribute to the development of the operational plans for the 2021-2022 school year please do so [here](#).

I've directed Principals to be prepared for a full day academic program as we have now, inclusive of lunch, with only our most medically fragile students receiving home services.

Sincerely,



Brian Brotschul, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools