



August 23, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year. In advance of your child's first day on September 8, 2021 it's important that I apprise you of several important items regarding your child's experience this school year.

On June 28, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy and Acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan released *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year*. The guidance included health and safety recommendations and strategies to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19, while still prioritizing full time, in-person learning. At that time it was indicated that an update from the NJ Department of Health was forthcoming.

On August 20, 2021 the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) [updated](#) the guidance for the 2021-2022 school year to align with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for K–12 schools and Executive Order 251 set forth by Governor Murphy which mandates masking in K-12 schools.

In comparison to last September, there are operational changes on the horizon for our students and staff members. Although we are opening up to full days of instruction, with lunch served, we do so as we eliminate the virtual learning option pursuant to direction given by Governor Murphy. This means we will have one cohort of students reporting to school each day.

To support our district's success this year, we will follow protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as was our practice since the onset of the pandemic. [HERE](#) you shall find a comparison of mitigation strategies from 2020 and how they have changed for 2021. Please pay special attention to the updated mask requirements, procedures for contact tracing, and how a student can access classroom instruction in the event they are identified as a close contact.

The District continues to finalize its operational norms for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Further information regarding operational norms will be forwarded to families by August 26, 2021 in advance of our first day of school on September 8, 2021.

Sincerely,

Brian Brotschul, Ed. D.  
Superintendent