



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Little Silver Families,

I hope everyone is doing well and having a great summer. Now that we are into the month of August, I felt an update to all of our staff and families was in order with regard to our current plans for September. Overall, I am optimistic and excited about being able to open our schools with a much greater degree of normalcy than a year ago. Unlike last year where we started our school year with student cohorts attending school just two mornings each week, it will be wonderful to open our doors on September 8th to welcome back all of our students who will follow their full-day schedules from day one this year.

Up until recently, there had been a great deal of discussion about the issue of mask wearing in schools. However, Governor Murphy put that debate to rest last Friday when he issued a new Executive Order that mandates mask wearing in all public, private and parochial schools for the opening of the school year. Given that the order went into effect as of August 9th, this practice is already in place and will continue when our staff and students return in September. Additionally, this practice will also apply to any/all indoor events at our schools, including the Board of Education meeting on August 26th. I realize that this decision is upsetting to many of our families, but I believe the Governor is taking steps that he believes will enable us to keep our schools open to the greatest extent possible. My hope is that the COVID data will quickly trend back in a more positive direction and that the mask mandate will prove to be a temporary measure. In the meantime, I remind everyone that the LSCOVID@littlesiverschools.org address remains operational and is checked on a daily basis by our administration and school nurses, so you are welcome to continue sending your questions, comments and concerns related to any COVID topic using that address.

Our district's Covid Team will continue to review the local and State data each week during the month of August to determine if we need to change any of our current practices. Speaking of, we are in the process of creating a matrix that will outline the expectations related to close contacts and quarantine protocols. That information will be posted on our district's website in the near future. For now, I will share that the CDC has already modified the quarantine expectations for fully vaccinated individuals, so that information will be included in the creation of our matrix as well.

For now, I hope that everyone continues to enjoy all that summer has to offer.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore
Superintendent of Schools