

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING REPORT 11/9/2020**

Good evening everyone:

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

I provided you with this information at our last BOE meeting, we have had one student test positive for COVID-19 which was a few weeks ago where we quarantined an entire class for the 14-day required period. Since then, we have had numerous staff and students tested for various reasons and so far, all have been negative. We would like to thank our staff and parents for taking all of the necessary precautions and following all protocols for keeping our school community safe.

### **SURVEY...REMOTE NUMBERS.... TRANSITION**

As you already know, we surveyed parents during the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>, regarding the option to change their child's program for the second trimester. All requests have been received, and changes will begin on November 30<sup>th</sup>. All requests have been honored, and there will be no impact to staffing for in-person and remote classrooms. Though numbers of students have changed in some of our classrooms, there has not been a need to collapse and/or open any new classes. Our remote class size numbers now range from 13 to 30. Any requests made moving forward will be on a case by case basis. Please contact your building administrators if you have any questions. Classroom teachers have started to reach out to parents and students to make a seamless transition by introductions, discussing logistics and beginning to establish relationships with the students and their families. The classroom and remote teachers will coordinate curriculum and progress to make a smooth academic transition.

We are now currently operating two programs, our "all remote" program with 249 students and our "all in" program with 1278 students.

### **RE-ENTRY PLAN...NEW FAQ**

We continue to update our re-entry plan by adding attachments or changes that we highlight in red. We also added a new FAQ and will post current information or answer any questions that may be beneficial for all.

## **WEBSITE**

The website committee recently met with Curriculum Coordinator, Sharon Meyer, who is the website committee facilitator, to give ideas, feedback and suggestions for the creation of our new website. Ms. Meyer then shared this information with Syntax, our PR firm, who will be designing our new website. They will be sending us some templates for the next meeting. This process is an 8-month project, and our goal is to roll out a new and improved website for 2021-22 school year.

## **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent teacher conferences will take place next Thursday and Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Both days are half days for students, and parents are asked to make their conference appointments using Canyon Creek. The link to Canyon Creek is posted on each school's webpage.

Report cards will be issued on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Similar to the Spring, they will be emailed. If you need a hard copy, please notify your principal. Also, please make sure that you always have an updated email on file.

## **HALLOWEEN, CELEBRATIONS**

I would like to thank our principals, teachers and PTA's for being creative and finding ways for our children to enjoy Halloween and other celebrations. I was able to visit the Haunted Hallway at JLC and observe activities and projects at FPBS. I can assure you that it was a fun day for all!

## **GREENKILL (FIELD TRIPS)**

Ms. Hyland, the coordinator of our trip, reached out to our contact at Greenkill as we were penciled in for the Spring, May 12-14, 2021. Their response to our inquiry was that they have not yet come to a decision on hosting for this Spring, and that if the State does not rescind their prohibition on large group gatherings by then, the question will be moot. We will keep you informed on this and report back in the new year. Teachers have also been researching other possibilities for field trips which will be dependent on openings and how safely we would be able to accomplish this. Currently, there are some outdoor venues that are taking reservations for the Spring. We will, of course, review all safety procedures and protocols before making any decisions. More information will follow in the new year.

## **THANK BUS RIDER FAMILIES**

Once again, we would like to thank those families who qualify for a bus and are continuing to transport their children to school. Especially now, with the majority of our students in school, this has really helped with lowering the numbers on the bus and social distancing.

### **TRAVEL ADVISORY**

The latest travel advisory from New York State is posted on our website for parents and staff. With the numbers of positive COVID cases around our country, this could have serious day to day consequences on the operations of our School District and on the students, families and staff of our school community. New York State currently requires anyone traveling to a state or territory on the New York State Travel Advisory List or to a CDC Level 2 or 3 COVID-19 related travel health notice country, to quarantine for 14 days unless they comply with the following **test-out rules** which would permit a shortened quarantine period. Travelers who were in another state for less than 24 hours are not required to quarantine upon their arrival in New York but must now complete a State travel information form and take a COVID diagnostic test four (4) days after their arrival. Travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours must obtain a COVID test within the 72 hours preceding their departure from that state, must quarantine for at least three (3) days following their arrival in New York, and must then obtain a second COVID test no earlier than day four (4) of their quarantine. If both COVID tests are negative, the traveler may exit quarantine upon receipt of the second negative test result.

### **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

I would like to wish all of you a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving Holiday. With the COVID cases on the rise, this holiday may be very different than in the past.....But, keep in mind and always remember.....

***“What unites us, is much greater than what divides us.”***

***And as I have said all along.....**We’ve got this!*****

**Dr. Kathleen Sottile**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

