



Rochelle Park School District

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Mrs. Cheryl Jiosi
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
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August 20, 2020

Dear Members of the Rochelle Park School Community,

I hope the summer has been enjoyable and that you are taking time to rejuvenate. This summer break has been most different for many, including school districts. As the district prepares for reopening there is a keen awareness of how unusual the past five months have been, and how this summer's process for reopening school has been unlike any ever experienced.

As you may know, the Rochelle Park School District's reopening plan was presented at the July 28th Board of Education meeting, and posted on the district's website. The Reentry Plan, calling for a hybrid model of in-person and on-line instruction, was submitted to the Bergen County Office of Education on July 31st, as was required. Subsequent to this required submission, on August 13th Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 175 allowing school districts to delay the resumption of in-person instruction, and start the 2020-2021 school year on full remote instruction in order to fully implement the health and safety components of reentry plans.

The Rochelle Park School District will utilize this flexibility and submit a request to the Bergen County Office of Education to delay the start of in-person instruction at Midland School until Monday, October 5, 2020 while the District awaits the delivery of certain equipment that will further enhance the safety and health of its students and staff. Orders for personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfecting equipment, and air ionization equipment to enhance indoor air quality are among ordered materials that have not yet been fulfilled due to backorders; an aspect of reopening that is not within our control. The district's virtual start will allow for additional time to receive and install items to further enhance the health and safety of our school.

Under the original reopening plan of a hybrid model, during the month of September, the students would have attended school for two half day sessions per week and three remote learning days. The previously designated in-person two (2) half day sessions for Team Maroon and Team White will temporarily be remote learning days, thus a temporary full remote instruction program will occur in September. The daily bell schedule previously announced and posted on the district website will remain in effect, though implemented remotely. Mr. Alberta, Midland School Principal, will soon communicate with parents/guardians and students about this schedule and updated information will be posted on the website.

Our district's goal has been, and continues to be, to reopen Midland School with students and staff returning to classroom instruction. The district is committed to a continuous process of reviewing reopening plans and working to secure items needed that will allow for classroom instruction at Midland School. With the anticipated return of students to Midland School on October 5th, it is anticipated that the originally planned hybrid model will be implemented at that time. Please consider that our plans are subject to change as directed by the New Jersey Department of Education or as required by circumstance of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the district, please know I join you in being eager to have students at Midland School. I ask that you join me and the district in our desire and commitment to maintain a healthy and safe school for students and staff. Your patience, understanding, and support are greatly appreciated as we continue to navigate through the course of this pandemic together.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Sue DeNobile". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint horizontal line.

Dr. Sue DeNobile
Superintendent