

## **Rochelle Park School District**

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November 30, 2020

Dear Rochelle Park School Community,

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Among those things to be grateful for are the efforts of our school community to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, and to keep Midland School a healthy and safe environment. As a school district every effort has been made to maintain our in-person educational programs. However, as our current required two weeks of online learning is about to end, and we are about to embrace a return to the hybrid model, there are additional COVID-19 cases within our school community. As you likely know by now, the New Jersey Department of Health guidelines call for many factors that need to be considered when deciding to close and re-open schools for on-site, classroom learning. Among these factors is the number of positive COVID-19 cases and the number of close/primary contacts required to quarantine.

In an effort to protect the health and safety of all of our students and staff, communication with officials at the Bergen County Department of Health has been on-going. The District's administration will continue its efforts to monitor the number of active cases that impact Midland School. Due to the confidentiality of students and staff members specific information about positive cases can not be released. However, there has been an increase in individuals (staff and students) required to quarantine due to interactions with positive COVID-19 cases. Based upon consultation today with the Bergen County Department of Health, due to the additional positive cases and cases deemed as close/primary contacts impacting our school community, the need to remain on a full remote instruction platform for an additional two weeks is now necessary.

Midland School will remain on an on-line, remote only learning platform through Friday, December 11, 2020. A return to the hybrid model is now scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2020.

This decision, while not made lightly, is most surely made in the best interest of well-being for all members of our school community. Please know, as part of our efforts to

ensure the personal well-being of our students and families during this closure, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher, guidance counselor, nurse, or Principal if you notice your child is struggling or in need of mental health or academic support.

Please know, the decision to return will be based on the most recent COVID-19 numbers, locally and across the state. Communication will continue to be shared through direct notice to you via email, school messenger, and posting on the district website <a href="https://www.rochellepark.org/">https://www.rochellepark.org/</a>.

As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we all partner to navigate these complex times. Please remember, we are here to support our families so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. May you remain well and safe.

Respectfully,

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Dr. Sue DeNobile, Superintendent