



Rochelle Park School District

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Mrs. Cheryl Jiosi
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February 11, 2022

Dear School Community Members,

As we have crossed the mid-year mark this letter is written to provide you with an update on several important topics. I hope you will receive this information in the spirit intended, to keep you informed, maintain transparency, and facilitate communication.

COVID-19 Mask Mandate: As you are likely aware, Governor Murphy announced lifting the mask mandate as of March 7, 2022. He also noted that the New Jersey Department of Health will be releasing guidelines for school districts in the coming weeks. Like most districts, we are eagerly anticipating those guidelines to determine how they may factor into the district's decision for a mask optional approach. As soon as those guidelines are received and reviewed a decision will be made about our next steps, and this will be communicated to you. Health and safety for everyone remains a priority.

Reconstruction: In July and August of 2020 the KDG and PreK wing of the first floor underwent renovations to provide new classroom space. Then, between January and September of 2021 Midland School endured three major floods! Two floods impacted the first floor while another impacted both the first and second floors. Overall, renovations to thirteen classrooms, the cafeteria, and office spaces have been on-going for well over a year. The process has been long, arduous, and not so pretty. Patience and perseverance have been at a premium on top of the already challenging conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are at the final stages of returning to full use of these spaces! With final approvals received, the finishing touches and furniture have been returned to classrooms and offices. The storage container and dumpster by the alleyway were emptied this week and removed! The trailers on the school grounds will soon be removed.

Communication: This is key to our partnership. The administration is accessible and always willing to communicate with you. Recently, members of the community have brought to the administration's attention some social media posts that have been critical or accusatory of the school, administration, or Board of Education. I can assure you that a more advantageous approach to expressing concerns and seeking answers to questions is to contact an administrator directly. We place children's needs at the forefront of all that we do. We believe in approaching conversations with candor, kindness, and goodwill; afterall, we are role models to the children, and partners in the process of providing a nurturing, safe, and supportive educational environment. If you have a

concern please contact us directly so we may address the situation. For your convenience the administration's contact information is noted below.

Thank you for your patience and support during these most difficult times. May you and your loved ones have good health, and may we all continue to partner for the students' success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue DeNobile, Superintendent

Administration Contact Information

Midland School Principal:

Mr. Michael Alberta, malberta@rochellepark.org, 201-843-3120 extension 511

Director of Curriculum & Instruction:

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