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December 11, 2020

Dear Fairfield Township Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I want to take this time to thank our families for their relentless and unconditional support during this most challenging time period. Also, I want to offer genuine appreciation to my staff and faculty who are working extremely hard to create a safe and inviting virtual learning environment. The other purpose of this letter is to provide everyone with COVID-19 and Reopening School updates.

On Thursday, November 19, 2020, the District learned the safety risk status of New Jersey, including Cumberland County, has been upgraded. Initially, we were low risk. Then, we moved to moderate risk. Now, we climbed to the "high risk" category. This change includes guidance from the NJ Department of Health for K-12 schools to consider moving to fully remote learning. For clarity sake, if our region is elevated to "very high risk", then all schools must move to 100% remote learning and it appears that we are heading in that direction from all credible accounts.

According to the NJ Department of Health, the recommendation is for all schools to be proactive and implement 100% Remote Learning until at least after Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday. The reason for this line of thinking can be found in the fact that the positivity rate for COVID-19 cases is steadily increasing with no immediate indication of decline. As a result, some schools have reversed their status and many more will begin changing their original position very soon.

As you are fully aware, Fairfield Township School is already operating in the 100% virtual learning platform. Our collaborative decision was based on factual information, science, and practical thinking with input from the school community and separated from politics. Indeed, we know that in-person learning is best for our children. And of course, we miss our students. However, health and safety has always been our top priorities.

With respect to our reopening school plan, we will stay consistent with 100% virtual remote learning until January 2021. However, instead of returning onsite on January, 4, 2021, the school will remain 100% remote learning until Friday, January 15, 2021. Specifically, we will implement the Hybrid Cohort Learning Model on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 and the days of instruction will switch to a half-day schedule instead of full days.

In an effort to better meet the needs of families, teachers will continue to be available all day to assist students and parents in answering questions and catching up on missing work assignments. This level of intense wrap-around support has really been met with great satisfaction from parents. Therefore, we will continue to provide a high degree of extra student care and parental support.

Given the above, I hope this information is helpful. Please reach out should you have any questions. I continue to appreciate everyone's support and cooperation.

Respectfully,



Dr. Michael Knox