

SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A Community dedicated to inspiring life-long learners"

15 Fredrick Boulevard

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www.swedesboro-woolwich.com

Dennis J. Anderson
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Jack J. Pfizenmayer
Interim School Business Administrator

April 12, 2021

Dear Families of SWSD,

I hope Spring Break found some enjoyable time with your families and thank you for adjusting back with our remote learning week. I wanted to now take this opportunity to provide you with updates and information as we move forward into the spring months ahead.

UPDATED INSTRUCTIONAL LEARNING MODEL TO BEGIN APRIL 19

At this time, the district is set to move forward with the updated schedule for Grades 1-6 beginning Monday, April 19. This plan includes combining Cohorts A & B so that both Cohorts will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (MTRF) on an early dismissal schedule. Wednesdays will remain as a Distance Learning Day for all students. Preschool and Kindergarten will continue with their 4-days per week AM/PM sessions that they have had since the opening of the school year.

Please review all components of our C.O.M.E.T.S plan as outlined in the Superintendent's March 26th letter [here](#).

Classrooms have been adjusted to accommodate the combined Cohorts with safety measures including additional plexiglass and social distancing parameters as best possible, ranging from 3-feet to 6-feet of distance.

Busing routes and schedules have been adjusted. Social distancing will not be possible in all bus settings, but will be implemented where possible.

Student schedules have been adjusted with parent requests to change learning models as communicated with our building principals. Parents may continue to request a change from the Hybrid Model to the Full Distance Learning Model at any time. Once that placement change is made, that will be the student's placement for the remainder of the year.

Please plan ahead for arrival and dismissal as we have more students who will be in the buildings. Arrival and dismissal procedures will be conducted as thoroughly as possible; however, due to the increase in students attending in the buildings, we do expect procedures to potentially take a little more time than in previous weeks.

Does the district plan to maintain in this model for Grades 1-6 for the remainder of the year?

Yes. The district has aimed to increase instructional time while maintaining safety practices and instructional consistency as much as possible by combining Cohorts. Wednesdays are additional time for extensive and thorough cleaning routines within the buildings. These days will continue to be time for students to complete Special Area classes and Content Area teachers will continue to provide time for small groups and personalized instruction. As the combined cohorts on MTRF equate to larger class sizes and less social distancing, it is a challenge for teachers to work with small groups within the classroom setting. With the early dismissal schedule, Content Area teachers will have adequate time each afternoon through virtual learning to work with students individually and in small groups to meet the students' diverse needs in the core academic areas. Again, Wednesdays then give time for both Special Areas assignments and Content Area instruction. Every teacher also participates each Wednesday in common planning time which has aided greatly in maintaining instructional pacing and consistency towards meeting the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Does the district plan to maintain the AM/PM schedules at the Clifford School for the remainder of the year?

Yes. The district has implemented the AM/PM schedule for 4 days per week since the first day of school as we recognize the benefits of having in-person instruction for our youngest learners. This model has required special transportation arrangements. It has allowed for quite small class sizes with most having 8-9 students on site during the AM/PM sessions. This has resulted in teachers being able to work closely with students' individual needs while also providing physical space for students to move about the classrooms for activities, etc. in safe and organized manners that are developmentally-appropriate. Ongoing progress monitoring has shown that students are comprehending and applying the content area curriculum and academic skills thoroughly. Additionally, due to the small class sizes and safety practices, including cleaning classrooms between AM/PM sessions, there has been a very low number of reported positive Covid-19 cases

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within the Clifford School resulting in zero unplanned classroom or school closures. The district plans to continue with this model as it has been successful and will maintain consistency for students, families, and staff to finish the year in a strong manner.

Will the district administer state testing this year?

Very recently the New Jersey Department of Education reported that districts will be waived of the requirement of administering state testing for the spring of 2021. SWSD plans to utilize our local internal assessments for data collection and analysis. Testing dates will be communicated through each building and classroom.

Does the district plan to reopen at full capacity in the fall?

Yes. At this time, the district is planning to have students return in September to a 5-day per week full-day instructional model for grades Kindergarten to 6th grade unless otherwise directed by the Governor of New Jersey. We are also striving to provide summer opportunities for both academics and socialization.

UPDATES REGARDING QUARANTINE RULES

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently lifted travel quarantine rules for individuals who are considered "fully protected" while the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) has updated quarantine guidance as well. Kingsway has similarly updated quarantine rules for individuals who travel outside the region and/or encountered a person(s) who has tested positive for the virus. The information below is aimed at clarifying these changes for our parents, students and employees.

1. **When am I considered "fully protected" from COVID?**
 - a. A person is considered fully protected minimally 2-weeks after a person receives the second dose in a 2-dose series or 2-weeks after a person received a single-dose vaccine.
2. **If I am *fully protected*, do I need to quarantine if exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID?**
 - a. Fully protected persons (and recovered persons) **DO NOT NEED** to quarantine if they meet the following criteria: (1) are fully protected (2-weeks post 2nd dose); and, (2) remain asymptomatic since COVID exposure. For additional information please click the NJDOH's link at [NJDOH's Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Persons](#).
3. **If I am *NOT fully protected*, do I need to quarantine if exposed to the virus?**
 - a. Yes. Individuals who are not yet vaccinated and/or deemed fully protected are required to quarantine for 14-days. Following quarantine recommendations remains instrumental in mitigating community spread. Our school nurses will work closely with individuals to determine the date of exposure and return-to-school/activity dates.
4. **What are the quarantine rules for household contacts?**
 - a. For individuals who are not yet fully protected, the household quarantine period has been reduced to 14-days if the employee and/or student (or student's parent) can confirm that the household member who has tested positive can and shall remain isolated from the remaining members of the household.
5. **If I am *fully protected*, do I need to quarantine if I travel outside of New Jersey?**
 - a. Now that vaccines are becoming increasingly available, Swedesboro-Woolwich's 14-day quarantine rule for those who travel outside the Region (NJ, NJ, CT, PA or DE) will be adjusted to align with the NJDOH's guidance for all employees and students. Therefore, if you are fully protected you **DO NOT NEED** to quarantine if you travel outside the Region. To learn more about this rule change, click on the CDC's statement [here](#) or the NJDOH's guidance [here](#).
 - b. If you are not yet considered fully protected, travel quarantine rules **do apply**. However, we have adjusted the timelines for those employees and students who are not yet fully protected from our original 14-day quarantine period to 10-days after travel. The quarantine period can be further reduced to 7-days if the traveler tests negative for COVID on the 5th, 6th or 7th day after traveling and provides a copy of the negative test result to our school nurse prior to returning to school. We begin counting quarantine days

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the day the traveler returns home. To learn more about this recommendation, click the link here:

[NJDOH's recommended 10-day self-quarantine after travel or 7-days if travelers test negative.](#)

- c. **What if I am presently out on a 14-day quarantine for travel? Do these changes apply to me?**
- i. Yes. Our school nurses are busy updating quarantine periods and are actively reaching out to employees and/or students who are presently quarantined to adjust their return-to-school/activity dates. If you have individual questions regarding your current quarantine period, please reach out to our respective school nurses.

We must continue to monitor our health practices. Our school counselors and school nurses will continue to provide weekly videos to support students and families with the latest health related information. In addition, we will be continuing to ensure staff and students are practicing the best health and safety practices including:

- Frequent hand-washing
- Wearing a mask
- Maintaining social distancing when possible
- Daily Screening Forms
- Staying home if sick or ill
- Reporting positive cases

We are very proud of the instructional opportunities that continue to be provided to our students throughout this year and thank our staff and families for all of the continued support as shared partners of SWSD.

Your Partner In Learning,



Dennis J. Anderson
Interim School Superintendent