



## ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MR. ANTHONY GRIECO  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 13, 2021

Dear School Community,

It is our sincere hope that you have been enjoying your summer and will continue to, throughout the next few weeks.

Our staff is currently preparing for the first day of school for students on September 7th. Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson will be running on a full day schedule, including lunch. Our schools, in conjunction with the central office, will be sending out more specific information in the next few weeks including, but not limited to: upcoming events, dropoff/pickup, lunch protocols, and other important procedures that coincide with the start of the school year.

*The Road Forward* was a document that the New Jersey Department Education published in June 2021. In this document, it states that: “*Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must plan to provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) worked collaboratively to develop the following guidance to operationalize that goal.*” See full document below:

[https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/school\\_health\\_and\\_safety\\_standards.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/school_health_and_safety_standards.pdf)

Based on the guidance in the document above, all NJ school districts were required to address a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The various categories in this plan are listed below:

- Maintaining Health and Safety
- Ensuring Continuity of Services
- Public Comment

In the upcoming weeks, we will also be updating you on specific health-related procedures, including quarantining. We are currently meeting with pertinent district staff, as well as outside

agencies affiliated with the district in various capacities, to ensure accuracy (health department, etc.). The New Jersey Department of Health should also be updating their K-12 guidelines to address any revisions/additions since their last guidance.

Many of you are probably aware that Governor Phil Murphy has mandated that facemasks will be required indoors at all school buildings for students, staff, and visitors for the 2021-2022 school year. NJ.com reported, *“In Murphy’s Executive Order, face masks are required to be worn indoors at all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings, with limited exceptions.”* The entire executive order, including the exceptions, can be found by accessing the Executive Order in the link below:

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-251.pdf>

As we begin the 2021-2022 school year, please consistently check our website, district calendar, parent portal, and other areas utilized by your child’s school building, to receive important updates. You will receive email, phone, and/or text alerts from our automated system throughout the school year. Should you have any questions or concerns during the school year, feel free to reach out to us as needed. Also, you are welcome to follow us on our district Twitter account: [@RockawayBoroBOE](#). Additionally, each school has additional social media accounts it will be using, detailing events and issues specific to that particular building/age group. Lastly, stay tuned for some changes to our messages that we send out, as we will be changing our platform at some point in the near future, to make the experience more streamlined and user-friendly.

Please be assured that we are doing our best to make the safest decisions possible for students and staff as we look ahead to the 2021-2022 school year. We thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support, and wish you and your family the best in the days to come.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Grieco*

Anthony Grieco

Superintendent of Schools