



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

103 EAST MAIN STREET
ROCKAWAY, NEW JERSEY 07866
TEL: 973-625-8601
FAX: 973-625-7355

MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 9, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians.

Hope this letter finds you and your family well. I also hope that amidst this COVID crisis, you were able to enjoy the beautiful long weekend.

So far we have fared well regarding COVID-19 cases and bringing our students back for in-person instruction as well as keeping our buildings open. I cannot thank our entire school community enough, students, staff and families, for all you have done to support our safety initiatives these past weeks both in school and at home as diligently wearing masks, washing hands and adhering to social distancing has made a difference. But as promised when we created our Reopening School plan we said that we would reassess and do our best to increase in-person instruction. While there has been an uptick in cases locally and around the country, we are currently at “Moderate risk” in Northwest Jersey and are hopeful that we can transition more students back to the building as long as we continue to be vigilant and follow designated guidelines from both the CDC and local and state health officials.

With that said, here are some changes we would like to institute starting Monday November 30th:

- Mondays will no longer be dedicated to Virtual Instruction.
- Instead Mondays will be become regular cycle days for in-person instruction in which Cohorts A & B will be rotated into the building on alternating weeks.
- This will provide each Cohort an extra in-person instruction day every two weeks.
- Students in Cohort C will continue to attend in-person classes five days a week.
- This change in schedule applies to students in both Lincoln Elementary and Thomas Jefferson and any students unable to attend in person can still continue to attend classes remotely.

Based on our current cycle day schedule, below is a chart that outlines the proposed schedule change and designated cohort days starting after Thanksgiving break on November 30th and running through December 23rd.

Monday 11/30, #4 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Tuesday 12/1, #5 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Wednesday 12/2, #6 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool	Thursday 12/3, #1 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Friday 12/4, #2 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool
Monday 12/7, #3 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool	Tuesday 12/8, #4 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Wednesday 12/9, #5 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool	Thursday 12/10, #6 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Friday 12/11, #1 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool
Monday 12/14, #2 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Tuesday 12/15, #3 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Wednesday 12/16, #4 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool	Thursday 12/17, #5 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Friday 12/18, #6 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool
Monday 12/21, #1 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool	Tuesday 12/22, #2 Cohorts A & C Integrated Preschool	Wednesday 12/23, #3 Cohorts B & C Integrated Preschool	Thursday 12/24 Holiday break begins	

While this change appears to be a “baby step”, it does equitably increase in-person contact for all students while keeping cohorts intact something that so far has helped us remain open even with positive cases reported in each building. In addition to this district wide initiative, we are also exploring the possibility of bringing back other students based on their individual needs and of course, being able to safely social distance in each specific class and grade. As this proposed change could be problematic and possibly a hardship for parents, like Election week, any students in Cohort A or B or are unable to attend in-person instruction on their designated Monday, can simply continue to attend classes remotely.

Moving forward, please know all decisions regarding schedule changes such as these are not made lightly, but with much input from many district and community stakeholders as well as guidance from local and state health officials and agencies. Again, we will move ahead with caution, and if needed, will modify our schedule and hybrid model to ensure the safety and health of all.

As always thank you so much for your support, understanding and flexibility as our current successes here in the Borough are truly a result of school and community working together.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllis Alpaugh". The signature is cursive and fluid.

Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent