



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hope this letter finds everyone well and rejoicing in the much needed warm and sunny weather.

While some of the COVID-19 data regionally has remained high, our local numbers in the district have stabilized and have been relatively low the past few weeks due to the efforts of our families and staff, and for that, we are extremely thankful. We, do, however, realize the importance of in-person instruction and the positive impact it has on student learning and their social emotional well-being.

With everyone's cooperation and support, today we have successfully brought back some of our students with IEPs (Individual Educational Plans) as well as ELLs (English Language Learners), but now we would like to see if we can bring more students back for in-person instruction five days a week for the 4th Marking period. Many factors are in our favor such as the warmer weather allowing teachers to get students outside more frequently for mask breaks as well as classwork, our ability to open windows and get more fresh air in the buildings, more staff members getting vaccinated, and of course our district data.

With that said, we are surveying all parents to see if possible, who would like their child(ren) to return for in-person instruction five days a week. Our plan pending data is to combine all cohorts to one for safe daily attendance. We will, however, keep to the same class schedule and our already established 1pm dismissal followed by lunch at home and our virtual afternoon classes, interventions and office hours. A tentative start day for the change would be the week of April 12th. If we can safely social distance all parties, there will be no hybrid model; students will either be in-person or virtual every day. In addition, we will continue to follow all safety protocols included in our Reopening School plan such as required social distancing, mask wearing, and safe hygiene and cleaning protocols.

Below is the link to the survey which is due by this Friday 3/19. Please complete one for each child in your family and we will most certainly keep you informed of our progress.

As always, thank you so much for your help, support and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent

<https://forms.gle/Kj19i1DjkJYyCKuKA>