



EAST RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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September 11, 2020

Dear East Rutherford Parents and Guardians:

The first week of school has come and gone and what is obvious is that no matter how much you plan and prepare, there is always a bit of uncertainty about how things will turn out. I have received feedback from different key stakeholders and based on the information received, at this point, it is safe to say we had a successful first week.

When developing the reopening plan, we considered every possible scenario and developed contingencies for each, knowing that, in this uncharted territory, we would need to be flexible and creative. I would like to thank all of our families for reviewing the building procedures, new schedules, welcome letters and more. Students arrived at their assigned entrance wearing masks and following social distancing. They were ready and excited, and so were we. Your preparation helped make our opening week a success.

While the first week was a success, it was not without glitches and as such I would like to outline a few reminders for parents/guardians:

- Please remember to complete the symptom checking questionnaire on the **LINKFOR** App by 7:30 a.m. at home every day your child attends school. Most parents/guardians complete this questionnaire while taking their children to school which makes it difficult to track real time data regarding symptom checking.
- During virtual live instruction, we are appealing to parents/guardians to ensure that students at home are wearing appropriate clothing for their instructional sessions. Students are not allowed to join instructional sessions wearing just their undergarments.
- Similarly, we are appealing to parents/guardians to ensure that you are appropriately dressed when shadowing/supporting your child(ren) during virtual instruction. Please be aware that the students in school can see you and your child(ren) and such being appropriately clothed is imperative.
- When supporting your child during virtual instruction, please do not complete the work and prompt your child(ren) to ask teachers questions. We would like this process to be organic and authentic. We want to encourage our students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers.

As we move forward over the next several weeks, we will be evaluating the progress of Phase I and closely monitoring the health data for our area. We will be sending out a survey shortly so that parents/guardians can choose the best learning option for their child(ren) during Phase II of our reopening plan. Please be aware that if we receive an overwhelming response for in-person instruction, we will be changing our existing schedule to either an A/B day or AA/BB day schedule as we do not have the physical capability to house an increased number of students while maintaining social distancing in the classrooms. This means students will most likely only be able to attend in-person instruction one or two days per week and will be engaged in remote learning for the remainder of time.

I would like to remind you that our School Based Mental Health Team is available, and counselors are connecting with students.

Lastly, it is extremely important to continue to wear masks, practice social distancing and wash or sanitize hands regularly, both in and out of school. We, as a community, are responsible for keeping in-person learning going. I hope you enjoy the weekend. Stay safe, and we will see you again next week!

Sincerely,

Giovanni A. Giancaspro

Giovanni A. Giancaspro
Superintendent of Schools