



**EAST RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

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October 6, 2020

Dear East Rutherford School Community,

Together, we have made it through the first month of school, and although there have been some bumps along the way, our teachers and administrators have received an abundance of positive feedback. Parents/Guardians have expressed gratitude for the smooth operation of building procedures, the warm and welcoming environment, and the consistent communication from schools that keeps students engaged and connected whether they are enrolled in the hybrid or remote learning model. Above all, parents/guardians have shared their overwhelming appreciation for the teachers, who are pioneers in this new learning environment, remarking on their exceptional preparation, patience, empathy, and engagement with the students.

Our school nurses and district physician have done a phenomenal job managing the new procedures and protocols, and I would like to recognize their efforts in keeping our school community safe and healthy. The nurses are the district's liaisons with the local and county health departments, and they have worked closely with the health officer regarding any positive COVID-19 cases and contact tracing. The Pandemic Response Team has continued to regularly review operations related to the school reopening plan and report feedback to the administrative team.

Looking ahead, we have been laying the groundwork for the development of Phase II of the reopening plan. As part of this process, we gathered feedback from all of our stakeholders. We received feedback from our staff on Phase I from a teaching perspective, given the new expectations of the hybrid and remote schedules, as well as specific recommendations that would enhance the educational experience in Phase II. We also conversed with the President of the PTA to gather input and review parent/guardian suggestions and concerns, which helped to inform the framework for Phase II.

The start date for Phase II has been identified as Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Building principals will send out student schedules on Wednesday morning, so that students and parents/guardians are ready for Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Of importance to note, is that the district will be extending its original end date of Phase II. In our original plan, we indicated that Phase II would end on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. However, after much discussion with key stakeholders, the decision was made to extend Phase II through January, 2021.

After disaggregating the Phase II survey, Kindergarten & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade were the two grade levels that have the most parents/guardians requesting in-person instruction. In compliance with social distancing requirements and classroom capacity, students in Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will follow a Maroon & Gray Schedule during Phase II. This will allow the district to safely welcome a larger number of students in both of these grade levels. Below is a table that represents each grade level and the **Hybrid Model** students will follow during Phase II for in-person instruction. Please keep in mind that the district reserves the right to alter in-person instruction at any given time depending on the rise or decline in the number of Covid-19 cases locally as well as statewide.

Grade Level	In-Person Instruction Days	Remote Instruction Days
Preschool	5 Days Monday through Friday	N/A
Kindergarten	Maroon Days: Mon. & Tues. Single Session Days Gray Days: Wed. & Thurs. Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day
First Grade	Monday through Thursday Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day
Second Grade	Monday through Thursday Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day
Third Grade	Monday through Thursday Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day
Fourth Grade	Monday through Thursday Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day
Fifth Grade	Monday through Thursday Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day

Sixth Grade	Monday through Thursday Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day
Seventh Grade	Monday through Thursday Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day
Eight Grade	Maroon Days: Mon. & Tues. Single Session Days Gray Days: Wed. & Thurs. Single Session Days	Fridays Single Session Day

Looking toward Phase III, please keep in mind that this phase could be altered, depending on a careful review of all data collected, the infection rate of the Coronavirus as well as the number of days allocated for Phase II with the holiday season amongst us for the months of November and December. We will communicate our progress and any potential changes to the Phase III start date with sufficient time for parents/guardians to make necessary arrangements.

Finally, it is important to remember that the district follows the recommendations of the CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health. We work collaboratively with the East Rutherford Borough Health Department to ensure the health and safety of the entire community, which is particularly important as we head into the flu season. In the upcoming two months, there are several holidays and long weekends (Columbus Day, NJEA Convention, and Thanksgiving). Please remember to check the [New Jersey travel advisory](#) for a current list of states on the quarantine list and know that the list is updated frequently; therefore, it can change while you are traveling. If you visit a state on the list, there is a required 14-day quarantine period upon returning home.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic and provide the safest schools possible for our students and staff. We look forward to continuing to work together to make this a great year for our students!

Sincerely,

*Giovanni A. Giancaspro*

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Superintendent of Schools