

POMPTON LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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November 17, 2020

Dear Member of the Pompton Lakes School Community:

While there have certainly been challenges, our school district has been able to remain open for in-person learning through the entire first quarter of the school year. We are grateful to our staff, students, parents, and community leaders for their part in helping to make this happen.

While in-person instruction is most effective, our priority continues to be the health and safety of students and staff. Like you, we closely monitor case trends and are watching with concern the alarming rise of cases in our state and our local area. As the number of cases increase, the challenges we face also grow. Therefore, while we originally hoped to make Wednesday an additional in-person/hybrid school day starting December 2, we have decided to continue to use Wednesday as a virtual day for all students and staff through the Christmas break.

Another topic to address is the need to continue to provide some level of fresh airflow in our classrooms. While virtually every room is equipped with a unit ventilation system that draws outside air into the classroom, health experts also recommend maximizing the amount of fresh air being circulated. This means we will continue to keep classroom windows open. While fewer windows may be open than in the early fall, and while the openings may only be an inch or two, temperatures may be colder in our classrooms than what is typical. In order to keep our students and staff warm, we will be operating our boilers at higher temperatures than normal. We also encourage our students to dress in layers and to wear a jacket to school. If students are cold, they will be allowed to wear jackets in the classroom.

We want our schools to remain open for in-person learning. Much of the reason we have been able to remain open is because of a concerted effort among all of us. We must continue to do the things that help us to remain open. Please continue to use the [COVID Daily Screening Tool](#), ([COVID Daily Screening Tool \(Spanish\)](#)) communicate with the school nurse if anyone in your home is exposed to COVID-19 and keep your child home if he/she is sick, awaiting test results, or if he/she may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Finally, one lesson this pandemic has made clear is that we must be ready, often with little notice, to change plans and to adapt. There may be a period in the future when we will have to close a school or the district for a period of time. This closure could come with very little advanced notice. Therefore, we need to be prepared for this change should the need arise.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and best wishes to you and your family for a peaceful and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Paul Amoroso
Superintendent of Schools