

# DELRAN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

52 Hartford Rd., Delran NJ, 08075

"dedicated to nurturing a supportive, student-centered environment where all people are treated with dignity and respect"

October 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to provide you with an update on items from around the District for your review and consideration.

## **COVID-19 Matters**

Testing: At the request of the Burlington County Department of Health, if one member of your immediate household family is going for a COVID-19 test, please bring the entire family to get tested. Additionally, please quarantine your children at home until test results are returned. As always, please keep in contact with your child's School Nurse and Principal.

Travel and Quarantine Information: Regarding your personal travel, especially as it relates to the NJEA Convention break, Thanksgiving and Winter Recess, please be mindful that it is absolutely your responsibility to quarantine if you travel to a state that is on the [State of New Jersey Travel Restriction List](#). If you travel to another state on the list at the time of your travel, you cannot immediately send your child to school upon return and are expected to comply with quarantine restrictions. Please be mindful of this when planning any trips outside of New Jersey.

School Closure Information: [HERE](#) is guidance from the Burlington County Department of Health regarding K-12 education. As you will see, anytime a school has more than 2 positive COVID-19 cases a shutdown is recommended. This directly relates to the matters at Delran High School that transpired last week.

To be clear, however, the decision to close is a local one that I made in conjunction with Burlington County Department of Health guidance, interpretation and advice.

Trends: According to my discussions with the Burlington County Department of Health there is a bit of a "spike" evolving in the "Rivertowns" area of Burlington County. As an example, yesterday Riverside and Delran accounted for 24% of the 51 positive test results in Burlington County.

I'll take a moment to reinforce the importance of you monitoring your own health, and that of your family, prior to sending them to school.

Additionally, please be mindful of the size of the "family circle" of immediate family and friends that you keep. It is not unusual for positive COVID-19 cases to come from situations where there are larger "family circles."

Communication Items: You will find all [Public Health Notices](#) under the COVID tab on the District website. Anytime a parent email is generated regarding a COVID matter, it is placed in this area on the website. Additionally, there is a [Dashboard](#) under the same tab to keep you abreast of case matters.

Weather Considerations: Please see that you are dressing your K-5 children warm as they will continue to have recess provided it is not raining, snowing or extremely cold. Additionally, windows will remain open on the school busses. Similarly, given the right weather conditions, students in grades 6-12 will continue to dine in the tents for lunch.

### **Athletics**

High School Information: All high school coaches for the Winter season were approved at my recommendation by the Board of Education at the October 12, 2020 Regular Public Meeting. The Winter season begins on December 3, 2020 and more information regarding particulars for each sport is forthcoming from Mr. Guidotti.

Currently, Delran High School is utilizing the current DHS gymnasium and DHS auxiliary gymnasium for instruction and lunches. Consequently, these spaces are filled with desks and protective equipment. Moving furniture for our academic program in and out of these spaces on a daily basis is not feasible. Thus, for the 2020-2021 Winter athletic season, all Delran High School basketball and wrestling teams will take place at Delran Middle School.

Middle School Information: Given the matters articulated above, the middle school will not have a formalized athletic program consistent with past years for the Winter 2020-2021 season. However, we are optimistic for the Spring season.

Based on my articulation with Burlington County school districts it appears that many of the teams we typically play have made or anticipate making decisions to not run an athletic program at the middle school level this winter.

### **Student Activities**

All schools had appropriate clubs and student activities approved at my recommendation at the October 12, 2020 Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Education. These clubs will be operating in a predominantly virtual setting. More information will be forthcoming by school Principals in separate communications regarding this opportunity for your children.

### **November 3, 2020 Schedule Change**

Due to an Executive Order from Governor Murphy, all schools are unable to be physically open to students on Election Day. November 3, 2020 will be a full remote day. School Principals will forward specific communication under separate cover.

### **Delran High School Schedule Change**

In order to proctor the PSAT's, the following Delran High School (only) schedule change will be communicated by Mr. Finkle with more specifics:

- October 28: Delaware in-person day
- October 29: "Wednesday Check-In Day"

## Halloween

The K-5 schools will not be celebrating Halloween with costumes, parades and class parties this year. Principals will speak to this in their communications with parents.

## CANVAS Learning Management System

Thank you to teachers, parents, and students as we support transitioning to the Canvas Learning Management System. The district encourages parents and students to go to <http://www.delranschools.org/canvas> if you have any questions about using Canvas throughout the year. There is a parent and student guidebook and support in place to help every child succeed with hybrid or fully remote learning. See ways to get help below directly in Canvas.



The image shows a screenshot of the Canvas Learning Management System interface. On the left is a blue navigation sidebar with icons and labels for Account, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, Studio, and Help. The Help button is highlighted with a red question mark icon. A blue arrow points from the text 'Click on Help Button' to the Help button. In the center, there is a cartoon panda holding a map, with the text 'Little lost? Try here first!' and 'Search the Canvas Guides' above it. Below this is a section titled 'OTHER RESOURCES' with three links: 'Parent and Student Instructional Help Form Remote Days', 'Student HelpDesk', and 'Ask Your Teacher a Question'. A blue arrow points from the text 'Get help on your remote days from administrators when the teachers are teaching' to the 'Parent and Student Instructional Help Form Remote Days' link. The 'Student HelpDesk' link has a description: 'Click the link above to log a helpdesk ticket for any Canvas issues. Use your Google login credentials (without the @delranschools.org for your username) when logging into the helpdesk.' The 'Ask Your Teacher a Question' link has a description: 'Question asked here will be submitted directly to your teacher. Teachers will respond by the end of the NEXT school day.'

Sincerely,



Brian Brotschul, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools