



# Rocky Hill Public Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 761 OLD MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 627

ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067-0627 • (860) 258-7701

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September 4, 2020

Dear Rocky Hill Families,

On behalf of the Board of Education and our staff, we want to welcome you back for the 2020-2021 school year. We are all aware that we enter this year facing new and significant challenges as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Teaching and learning will be different as we make adjustments to our new reality. However, you should know that the Board of Education and our central office leadership team met regularly throughout the summer with a group of stakeholders (including teachers, school principals, parents, and nursing staff) representing each of our schools. These meetings focused on the development of the Board's *Fall 2020 Reopening Plan* – a comprehensive plan designed to ensure that every effort is made to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our students and staff when schools reopen for in-person learning on September 8. The plan is posted on the district's website and includes enhanced safety protocols such as the requirement to wear facemasks; the use of three-sided protective paneling on desks; an emphasis on the importance of social distancing; constant reminders to engage in regular hand washing or sanitizing; additional air quality control measures; strict regulations limiting outside visitors; and a district-wide approach to more frequent cleaning and disinfection of spaces such as classrooms, cafeterias, restrooms, and school buses. Importantly, the Board has also invested a significant amount of money in additional technology and equipment designed to support those students whose families have temporarily opted for remote learning.

One simple message that staff members will emphasize with students is the importance of the **3 W's**: ***Wash your hands, Wear your mask, Watch your distance.*** (Please note that neck gaiters, bandanas, face shields, and masks with valves or vents *do not* comply with the mask requirement.) Your child must attend school wearing a mask (unless a medical doctor has provided a written exemption) that conforms with the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). We have provided the following link for your convenience:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

While the current health reports for our region look very promising and support the decision to reopen for in-person learning on September 8, please realize that the Board is working closely with our administrative team to monitor critical Coronavirus data on a weekly basis. The Board's plan provides flexibility for the district to transition to a hybrid model, or to a full-scale remote learning model for all students, should the public health situation worsen due to a rise in transmission rates. Regardless of the learning model employed, our staff remains committed to meeting the educational needs of all of our students.

Yesterday, all families received information from our two assistant superintendents, Ms. Darlene Listro and Mr. Charles Zettergren. Ms. Listro provided families with the rules and guidelines for participation in remote instruction. Mr. Zettergren's communication outlined procedures for remote learning students to access the school lunch program. All of this information has been posted on the district website.

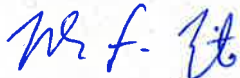
In closing, we are pleased to be opening our schools next week. However, we must continue to remain vigilant in terms of safeguarding ourselves and our fellow community members. As we have learned, the very nature of the Coronavirus pandemic has been one of uncertainty and continually evolving circumstances; hence, your continued understanding, support, and flexibility is greatly appreciated. Working together, we are confident that the Rocky Hill Public Schools community can overcome the challenges which lie ahead of us and continue to provide our students with an outstanding education.

Best wishes for a great Labor Day weekend.

Respectfully,



Brian A. Dillon, Chairman  
Rocky Hill Board of Education



Mark Zito, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools