

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Dr. Paul Smotas
Interim Superintendent of Schools

October 2, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

As I write this message today, I am struck by how quickly things change regarding COVID-19. The President of the United States and the First Lady have tested positive for the virus. The City of Norwich has basically been shut down for the next two weeks. The positivity rate for the virus has doubled in the last week in Connecticut, and every day more and more Connecticut school districts have seen a rise in confirmed cases of this disease in both students and staff.

Given all of the above, we will not be moving from our current hybrid model of instruction anytime soon. We had begun to plan for reopening of the elementary schools (PreK-5) as soon as October 19, 2020. However, I firmly believe that the safest course of action, to protect our students and staff, is to remain in our current hybrid model.

My primary responsibility as Superintendent of Schools is to protect the health and safety of all students and staff. Please know that I share your frustration with the ever-changing landscape in regards to the pandemic. In-person instruction is the best teaching and learning model for all stakeholders. Unfortunately, the current metrics of rising case numbers and the requirement of 6 feet social distancing do not allow us to return to full time in-person instruction. I will revisit and review our ability to return to school full time on a daily basis. Please continue to wear masks, social distance, and make good decisions about where you go and who you spend time with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Smotas".

Dr. Paul Smotas
Interim Superintendent of Schools

REMEMBER: ALL students can receive FREE breakfast and lunch daily. Support our Food Service Programs! Great Food! Great People!