

# NEW BRIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

3225 43rd Street • New Brighton, PA 15066-2697 (724) 843-1795 • (724) 843-6144 Fax • www.nbasd.org

---

November 20, 2020

Dear New Brighton Area School District Families,

First and foremost, please accept our thanks for your continued support, patience, and flexibility through all we have faced this school year. We have learned what it means to learn virtually, have become flexible in a new type of in-person schooling, and made adjustments along the way as we face new challenges. While it has not been easy, our success thus far is only possible because of the families and staff of the New Brighton Area School District working together every step of the way.

We have been diligent in our actions and mitigation strategies in order to control the impact of the Covid-19 virus on our operations and in-person instruction since returning in October. We have been successful in curbing the spread within schools, but we still have closed buildings multiple times and have seen the number of students required to quarantine increase drastically in the last few days. Our community and county are being taxed with an abundance of positive Covid test results and today Beaver County was listed as “substantial” for community transmission for the second week in a row. The PADOH and PDE have recommended virtual instruction as a result of this designation.

We know that the best place for kids to learn is in school. However, in order to protect our healthcare system, the families in our community, and comply with the recommendation from the Departments of Health and Education, we will attend school in our current models through Wednesday, November 25, 2020. On Tuesday, December 1, 2020 we will shift to Virtual Instruction and will remain in a Virtual Instruction model through Monday, January 18, 2021. Our goal will be to return to in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 and remain open following that return. We will constantly monitor the data to evaluate our position and adjust our plans as necessary. The hope in selecting this time period is to provide parents with time to plan, avoid a constant back and forth as buildings may be forced to open and close as case counts rise, and to recognize that during the holiday season many families will gather to celebrate and potentially travel. The new PADOH guidelines on travel quarantine, combined with the risk of exposure during gatherings, presents a significant challenge for in-person instruction. This decision will allow families to make choices this holiday season that are best for them and, hopefully, allow the infection rate in Beaver County to subside below substantial levels.

Please continue to monitor your email and our website as we release additional information on the schedule beginning on Tuesday, December 1. Each building will release information regarding schedules and plans. Additionally, during this temporary time of Virtual Instruction, we will continue to provide community meal pick-up and details will be released next week.

We recognize that this temporary return to Virtual Instruction will be a challenge for families. It is our hope that a temporary closure and lessening of transmission rates in our area will allow us to re-open and remain open for our students. It is our goal to put the health and safety of our students, staff, and the community at the forefront of every decision and we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Guarino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent