



# Rocky Hill Public Schools

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

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September 18, 2020

Dear Rocky Hill Families,

We are pleased to report that the 2020-21 school year in Rocky Hill is off to an excellent start. Our teachers, support staff, and administrators have worked extremely hard to ensure that outstanding teaching and learning continues despite the hardships we are all facing as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Currently, approximately 63% of our students are attending school for in-person learning with the remaining 37% participating remotely. We anticipate that the number of students attending school for in-person learning will continue to increase, over time, as long as the public health situation in our region remains favorable. We have also been very impressed with the willingness and the ability of our students to comply with the **3 W's (Wear Your Mask, Wash Your Hands, Watch Your Distance)**. Even our very youngest learners are demonstrating a resilient approach to complying with the face mask requirement; moreover, they are diligently washing their hands at frequent intervals throughout the school day while practicing social distancing. We realize that changing personal habits can be difficult, and we commend all of our students for taking appropriate steps in order to promote safety and good public health.

As we conclude the second week of school, we want to update you on a temporary change to the school lunch program. Last evening, the Rocky Hill Board of Education approved the school district's participation in a federal school meals program that will waive all fees through December 31, 2020, (or for as long as funding remains available). The program is a component of the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* and is designed to provide economic relief to families regardless of income level. This means that all children ages 18 years or younger who attend the Rocky Hill Public Schools or reside in Rocky Hill (public school enrollment is not a requirement for participation) are now eligible for free school meals, beginning on Monday, September 21, 2020. (Beginning in January of 2021, the district will reinstitute regular lunch fees.) For additional information, please see the attached FAQ sheet. We are pleased to offer free meals for the next several months and we would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

In closing, we want to express our appreciation for your ongoing support and flexibility. The feedback we have received from parents and guardians regarding the return to school this fall has affirmed the Board's decision to reopen our schools on a five-days-per-week basis, and we look forward to continuing to provide our students with high quality learning experiences in the months ahead.

Respectfully,

Brian A. Dillon, Chairman, Rocky Hill Board of Education

Mark Zito, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools