



# Principal's Update

Week of 2/15/21



## Message from Michele

Hello Parents/Guardians & Staff,

Last Thursday, 2/11/21, ADS hosted a virtual parent meeting. During that meeting the reopening team answered many parental questions about our school closure. Topics discussed were; reasons for extending our closure, why hybrid has not been offered, and parental concerns around virtual learning. Despite the understandable frustration of many, there were many positives of this meeting as well. Parents connected with each other, many stated the wonderful support staff members are offering, and at the end some of us were able to experience the joys of the students.

Results concluded at this meeting were:

- I will provide all with more frequent updates of our reopening status
- Parents will receive a survey to gather more feedback regarding the ADS reopening plan to include hybrid options (I am working on this)
- The social worker will look to develop a parent support group

We continue to provide services in the best ways we can during this time however, we know it is no replacement for in-person learning. We all want the students and staff to have a safe return, and this week is a hopeful one. The numbers are declining and Wednesday we started the countdown to our reopening! Fingers crossed that this is promising...

If there is any additional information you would like to see in this newsletter, please reach out to let me know. I hope you find this a better way for us to remain connected.

Thank you for your continued support.

~Michele ☺

MMccloskey@sjogcs.org

## RE-OPENING UPDATES

This week the re-opening team discussed the topics of concern at the parent meeting. We determined that current data supports the trend in transmission rates declining in Gloucester County. Today, we are at the lowest numbers we have seen since November. The count was 26.3 new cases daily. As a result of this positive trend we decided to modify the guidelines for reopening, to help expedite our return.

- On the Path to Zero website, we decided to modify our plan to allow us to proceed with our reopening while in the "red zone" however numbers need to be less than 27 for us to start our 14 day "stability hold" (compared to the previous 25 or less)
- This allowed us to start our 14-day countdown is past Wednesday when 27 was reached.
- Should there be a fluctuation in numbers, we will not restart our count. We will only restart the 14-day count if the numbers are higher than 27 for 3 days.

**Our anticipated reopening date is Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> based on the consistency in numbers. I will continue to provide you with weekly updates on our status.**

**Re-opening Committee: Michele McCloskey, Principal, Jason Bintliff Risk Manager, Hannah Sykes, Program Supervisor, Patrice Parkinson, Lead Teacher, Joelle Rossi, Lead Teacher, Linda Hughes, Mary Meduri, Stephanie Gjerme, Sara Konrad, Cindy Ogbin – School Nurses, Andrea Sigmund, Related Services Supervisor**

## ADS NEWS

- The ADS Family welcomes new staff member Leslie Reid Bey. She is a part-time substitute teacher. She will be getting trained on virtual learning next week and you may see her soon. Please join me in welcoming her.
- IEP meetings are in full swing this year. To date all will be conducted virtually. If there is anything that you would like to see embedded into your child's IEP for next year, please reach out to your child's teacher. Home & school collaboration is so important in student growth and development.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> – Early Dismissal Days- Parent/Teacher conferences