

March 7, 2021

Dear Garden City School Community,

Almost one year has passed since the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the regular operation of our schools. In that time our students, staff, and families have adapted to different learning models and school routines as part of our collective efforts to keep our schools operating in as close a way as we have come to expect and appreciate.

The majority of our staff are now fully vaccinated, and the prospect of broader vaccine availability gives us hope of a return to a greater sense of normalcy in the months ahead. We have also learned a lot about the transmission of the virus in schools, including what strategies are most effective, and those that have demonstrated not to be.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our students in grades 7, 9 and 10 to full-time, in-person instruction tomorrow, March 8. In addition, Stewart grade 5 will return to Stewart School tomorrow. I know our 5th graders are looking forward to finishing their elementary days back in Stewart. Administrators, teachers, and our facilities department have worked hard to have all of our students back full time.

Positive Cases

We had 10 positive COVID-19 cases this past week:

- High School – 3 students
- Middle School – 1 student
- Stewart – 2 students
- Stratford – 2 students
- Hemlock – 1 student
- Homestead – 1 student

The DOH was contacted and all close contacts were notified.

Updated Quarantine Guidelines

This past Thursday, our administrators met with Dr. Buchman from the Nassau County Department of Health to evaluate our contact tracing procedures and how individuals who need to quarantine are identified. We determined that we will be using the six feet radius method in all of our buildings, and may not need to quarantine entire classrooms with every positive case depending on the situation. We will continue to work with the Department of Health on all COVID-19 matters.

Chromebook Update

The additional Chromebooks we ordered for student use last June have finally arrived! Within the next two weeks, these will be distributed to high school students. Our high school students' existing Chromebooks will be repurposed for use in our lower grades. Once this process is completed, our 1:1 initiative for all students will finally be in place.

Athletics

This past week marked the start of the fall athletic season, and we have over 700 student-athletes trying out for various sports. This week, contests will begin for each of these teams. Our coaches and teams will continue to follow all health and safety protocols. Per Nassau County guidelines, we are allowing two spectators per participant to attend each contest for our outdoor sports and for indoor volleyball. This will also allow family members of our cheerleaders, kickline and band team members at football game performances to attend.

COVID-19 Testing

As you may know, our district has offered free COVID-19 testing on our district campus for students and staff. Unfortunately, not many people have used this service; therefore, we will no longer be offering this. To find COVID-19 alternate testing locations, [click here](#).

Enjoy the rest of your Sunday.

Sincerely,

Kusum

Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools