

November 24, 2020

Dear Garden City School Community,

With Thanksgiving almost here, I want to wish you all a happy, safe and healthy holiday. This year, perhaps more than in any recent memory, Thanksgiving will be different for most of us. There has been unprecedented disruption to our lives. With that said, we have so much to be grateful for.

As parents, many of you have had to guide your child's learning in a very different way this year. We have seen our parents come together to support our schools in so many ways. Our partnership is more important than ever.

As a school community, we have a shared commitment to our children. Countless individual parents, our PTA, SEPTA, various parent organizations, and community organizations are incredibly generous in supporting our schools and our students inside the classroom, out on the fields, and beyond. We are sincerely thankful for all that you do to help build a culture of learners, athletes, musicians, and artists.

Please know we are committed to remaining open. I sent a letter out earlier regarding the micro-cluster testing that was initiated by the State. Please know we are not advocating for the testing of our students or staff. We are concerned that if we need to, it will be challenging for our district financially. Assemblyman Ra reached out to us today and said that he has been working with state organizations to assist districts.

In the past two weeks, we have seen a rise in positive cases in our District. These positive cases have been from outside of our schools. The commitment to remain open and expand options for our students must be a shared commitment by our larger school community. I ask everyone to please follow health and safety guidelines over the Thanksgiving break to help minimize the spread. I know we all miss traditional holiday celebrations with our loved ones, but to mitigate the virus's impact, please adhere to the Department of Health guidelines. In addition, the [New York State Department of Health's Travel Advisory can be viewed here](#) and calls for anyone who was out of state for more than 24 hours to be tested within three days of departure from the travel destination, before returning to New York, then quarantine for three days upon return and be retested on day four. Those taking shorter, overnight trips out of state are not required to quarantine but must obtain a test on their fourth day back in New York. Additional information is available [on the new COVID-19 Resources page of our website](#).

Again, thank you for supporting us in so many ways. On behalf of the Board of Education, administration and staff, we thank you and hope you all have a happy Thanksgiving with your loved ones. On a personal note, I am very thankful to serve our children and this community.

Sincerely,

*Kusum*

Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools