



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Little Silver Families,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the fall season. As we approach the month of November, one of the events highlighted on the calendar is parent-teacher conferences. As in years past, on each of the days when conferences are held, the schools will operate on their early dismissal schedules. This will include our self-contained classes in both schools who will also be dismissed at 12:30 on the dates listed below. I remind everyone of this past practice because the district will be following that same procedure again this year. It is important to remember that on the conference days, there is typically no level of instruction that takes place during any of those afternoons in order to allow the teachers to prepare for or to take part in their conferences. The same will hold true this year as well. As a result, families should take note that on the dates listed below, there will be no virtual instruction during the afternoon for any classes in either school.

- Thursday, November 19 - evening conferences
- Friday, November 20 - afternoon conferences
- Monday, November 23 - evening conferences
- Tuesday, November 24 - afternoon conferences
- Wednesday, November 25 - early dismissal for all staff and students for Thanksgiving holiday

Knowing that Halloween is this Saturday, I encourage everyone to read and follow the guidelines for celebrations and trick-or-treating created by the Town Council. As a fellow parent, I enjoy the whole Halloween experience, but it does present opportunities for social gatherings that could prove to be a real risk in terms of health and safety. With that in mind, the following links were taken from the Borough of LS website to provide you with more details about Halloween:

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NJ_Halloween_2020.pdf
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/halloween.htm>

Looking ahead, I realize that some of our families may be planning to travel outside of NJ during the upcoming week of the NJEA Convention as well as the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Should your plans include taking your child/children out of school to go away, then those days would be counted as “unexcused absences” and treated like any other unscheduled vacation days. As I stated in my letter dated October 8, virtual learning will not be available out of convenience. Just to be clear, that means virtual instruction will not be provided to students while they are away on vacation with their family. As in the past, the teachers will post



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assignments in their Google Classroom so that students are able to make up work to the extent possible while they are away and then finish catching up once they return to school.

With this in mind, I need to remind our families about the importance of following the COVID travel guidelines and expectations issued by the State. The following link will provide you with more details. <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

As you are probably aware, individuals that return from a location on the current Travel Advisory List are expected to quarantine for 14 days. If your family is planning to travel to a location on the Advisory List, then your child/children will be expected to comply with the 14-day quarantine. The local health officials have confirmed that it is inappropriate and unsafe for individuals to “test out of quarantine.” In other words, the DOH expects people to serve the entire 14-day quarantine upon returning to NJ from a “hot spot” location. Students in quarantine for this reason will be able to attend school using the fully remote option for the duration of the quarantine period. Parents will be expected to notify the school nurse and principal regarding these circumstances if needed.

Just to clarify the previous two paragraphs, for any day(s) that students are away on vacation, virtual learning is not an option. However, if a student is home and in quarantine for any reason, then virtual learning will be available for that period of time until the child returns to school.

The timing of this letter happens to coincide with the final portion of our district’s transition into phase 3 of our Reopening Plan. Having received so much positive feedback from staff members and parents about our district’s progress, I would hate to see us take steps backwards. It would be disappointing and frustrating if we reached a point where I would need to recommend a return to phase 1 (fully remote learning each day) due to a local outbreak of positive COVID cases in our community. With this in mind, I strongly encourage everyone to be responsible and cautious with regard to your travel plans.

I encourage everyone to mark your calendars accordingly based on the above information.

Thank you and stay well.

Respectfully,

Superintendent