



# LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Michael E. Ettore  
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Dear Little Silver Families,

During the Board of Education meeting last Thursday, I commented on multiple topics that require some level of official follow up. The first topic is the duration of quarantine time that is expected for individuals that travel outside of the tri-state region. Since the start of the year, our district has been taking a cautious approach and maintaining the expectation of a 14-day quarantine period upon your return to NJ. In light of recent changes made by the CDC and within our immediate area here in Monmouth County, our Covid Team has determined that we are ready to revise our position and change our protocol. Effective immediately, the expectation will be for individuals to quarantine for either 10 days or 7 days if they receive a negative PCR Covid test. **If you take the latter course of action, please be aware that only PCR test results will be accepted for this purpose and proof of the negative test will be required by the school nurses.** The local health officials have been contacted and they are in agreement with our decision to modify this particular expectation. For those families that currently have children in quarantine due to travel, the school nurses will be adjusting return dates as needed and reaching out to families with that information.

The next topic in need of an update is the district's plan for the week immediately following spring break (April 6-9). Given that the start of the break is still over a month away, the Covid Team and the Board of Education have decided to postpone making a final decision about the status of that week until we get closer to the break. To be specific, a decision will be made and shared with the community during the week of March 15. Holding off on this decision will enable the Covid Team to continue monitoring the local data and make a more informed decision when the time comes. Additionally, it is worth noting that the decision to be fully remote the week immediately following winter break was communicated to the community on December 21, so we are essentially taking a consistent approach in terms of a timeline.

The final topic in need of an update is the adjustment to our current schedule in both schools. After extensive planning discussions among the administrative team, the teachers and the Board of Education, the decision has been made to extend the current schedule by an hour each day. **As a result of this change, the new dismissal time for BOTH schools will be 1:30.** The extra time being added to the in-person school day will be used at PRS for instruction in the core subject areas and at MPS for related arts and intervention. Knowing that students will be expected to hold off on having lunch until later in the day, teachers in both schools will provide appropriate time for a brief snack break each day. The other important change that this new schedule will provide is the elimination of the virtual afternoon session for the students. The afternoon portion of the day will be dedicated to providing teachers with their lunch and planning time. **The start date for the new schedule will be Monday, March 15.**

Although students will no longer have mandatory virtual sessions during the afternoon, it is still important for them to take their chromebooks home each day to be ready for the possibility of transitioning to remote learning due to the weather or because of a positive case of Covid that would result in some type of quarantine period. Additionally, students may still be scheduled for virtual sessions in the afternoon in order to receive intervention or related services such as speech, OT & PT when needed. Those types of arrangements will be made between school staff and parents.



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I believe that the newly extended schedule will be mutually beneficial for teachers, parents and most importantly, for students. The elimination of the afternoon virtual sessions along with the additional instructional time in the classrooms each day, should allow for an even greater degree of learning and growth along with a significant reduction in weekly screen time for all students. In terms of specific gains, the adjustments being made by the administration and teachers with the new schedule will enable students to receive 100% of their instructional time while they are in school. In other words, the only part of the full-day school experience that our students will not have is lunch and recess. Just as we have done all year, the administration will monitor and evaluate the upcoming schedule change to determine if any adjustments are needed. Our collective goal remains returning our schools to their typical full-day schedule, which will hopefully happen at some point later this year. For now, I am proud that our district continues to move forward and I firmly believe that the upcoming schedule change will prove to be a positive step closer to our ultimate goal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael E. Ettore".

Michael E. Ettore  
Superintendent