



Harbor School

Providing Excellence in Special Education Since 1969

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Affiliated with Gateway School, Carteret, NJ & Alpha School, Jackson, NJ

December 7, 2020

Dear Harbor School Families,

As you know, December 1, 2020 we moved to a remote learning model with an intended return date of Monday, January 4, 2021. After carefully examining the Harbor School positivity rate, COVID-related quarantines and school-wide staffing potential, we have revised the date of a safe return to in-person learning for our school to Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

The COVID-19 Activity Level Report currently lists our area as High Risk. This designation requests consideration of an all-remote learning environment, and it was our determination that going all-remote would help ensure the safety of our students and staff during an upward trend in positive cases. However, we believe our careful approach was the right decision, placing us in a stronger position to re-evaluate in-person learning prior to January 4, 2021.

If, however our region moves to the Very High-Risk designation, we may likely be required to transition back to remote learning. Please, therefore, be aware of the possibility that our entire school or cohort may need to move to remote instruction due to the transmission of COVID-19.

As always, this decision will be made in conjunction with the local health department. Lastly, we recognize how challenging of a time this is for our entire school community. Our School Counselor and UBHC Program are working tirelessly to provide support to our students, teachers and families through integrated curriculum resources that take shape in daily and weekly lessons, as well as conversations.

Moving to remote learning is never an easy decision, and it is our strong belief that our students need the academic and social-emotional support in-person instruction provides. We are therefore happy to re-open and transition back to in-person instruction earlier than planned, but do so with extreme care and caution.

Please be reminded that families can continue to have the option of remote learning. Teachers will remain supportive to students who will continue remote instruction, by engaging them in digital platforms such as Google Classroom and Zoom.

Please understand we are constantly evaluating the situation and will continue to consult with local and state health officials on the ever-changing information and data related to COVID-19 to ensure the safety of our students. To this end we will continue to place the safety and well-being of our students and staff first.

Sincerely

Dr LeRoi Jones
Principal

Ms. Amy Brandon
Supervisor of Instruction