



# Mountainside Board Of Education

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[www.mountainsideschools.org](http://www.mountainsideschools.org)

**Mrs. Janet Walling – Superintendent of Schools**

March 22, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians:

**Good afternoon, I am writing with some very important information to share:**

- **After careful consideration, Mountainside Schools has determined the need to adjust our plans for the week following Spring Break and will transition to FULLY REMOTE instruction for all students for the week of April 5th - 9th.** While I recognize that this decision may not be welcomed by some, we feel it is the most prudent choice to make at this time given recent changes in our health numbers and other aspects. Specifically, this decision is based on various factors including a significant increase in positive cases of COVID-19 in Mountainside, and our region, over the past few weeks; a large number of families who just informed us of their travel plans, resulting in over 20% of the Mountainside school community who would be participating in remote learning and/or needing to quarantine; and the increased risk of exposure during Spring Break. This decision has also been supported by the Westfield Regional Health Department due to the high levels of activity in our area.
- What this means for your child's instruction and teaching is the following:
  - All grade levels will follow **full day remote schedules** for the week of April 5th - 9th similar to what we utilized the week after Winter Break.
    - Individual grade level schedules will be sent out by your child's teachers/school prior to April 5th.
  - If your child will need a school provided Chromebook for this period of time, please fill out the following survey by Thursday, March 25th. **You MUST fill out this NEW survey if you need a device, even if you have received a device previously.** Chromebooks will be sent home with students on Friday, March 26th. Survey link: [Technology Device Request for April 5th- 9th](#)
- If you are traveling over the Spring Break, and have not already notified the school nurse, please contact her to share your date of return to NJ and to determine what your child's quarantine timing will be.
  - The District follows a 10 day travel quarantine requirement for all students.
  - The first day of quarantine begins on the day after your return to New Jersey
- If you are in need of assistance with childcare as a result of this change, the Westfield YMCA will have limited availability in their full day program in Westfield. Please reach out to your child's principal if you would like more information.
- I am aware that baseball/softball tryouts are scheduled for the week of April 5th-9th. The coaches will reach out to student athletes over the next few days if there are any changes to this schedule.

I understand that the shifting health conditions and guidance throughout this past year have not been easy for **any** of us, but I truly appreciate everyone's support, flexibility, and willingness to adjust to the changing situations in order to **always** keep the health and safety of our entire school community at the forefront of every decision. It is only through our work TOGETHER that we continue to be successful!

*Janet Walling*