



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 4, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff:

Good evening and I hope that you are well. As I sat down to write this letter I was struck by the reality that it has been a year since the beginning of the pandemic and what has become an unprecedented journey for all of us! While we cannot forget the impact this past year has had on each of us in many ways, I also find myself looking back and marveling on how far we have come TOGETHER.

As a united school community, we braved the unknown; we shared our worries and concerns; we were partners in education; we developed a plan to reopen our doors safely; we successfully implemented protocols that have kept our students and staff as safe as possible while being open for instruction 5 days a week; and we pivoted many times as situations and health guidance has changed. Even though we are about to mark a year since this all began, it is important to recognize that our journey is far from over. While we are excited about the prospect of the “light” ahead as vaccines become more widely available, look forward to the potential of restrictions being adjusted, and work our way towards more “normalcy” for your children, we will also continue to diligently follow state and medical guidance in order to keep the health and safety of our students and staff at the forefront of all decisions.

I would also like to inform you that **the District will remain open to in-person learning for the week following our Spring Break.** This decision is based on input from our local health department as well as the current downward trend in positive cases both locally and in our region. Please know that, as we did in November and December, we will continue to monitor the local and regional health conditions as we get closer to the break and adjust any recommendations accordingly.

If you plan to travel beyond NY, PA, DE, or CT during our time off please be aware of the following guidelines:

- Students will be required to follow district protocol and quarantine for 10 days following your return to New Jersey.
  - **If this will apply to your child, please let his/her principal and the school nurse know as soon as possible** so that they can verify your child’s date of return to school.
  - Students will be placed on remote learning during the quarantine period
- The only exception to the travel quarantine are students who have **tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days** prior to their return from out-of-state travel. These students **DO NOT need to quarantine** as long that they are not experiencing any symptoms.
  - If this applies to your child, proof of COVID positivity must be sent to the school nurse.

I appreciate your open communication regarding any travel plans and thank you for your continued support.

Mountainside School District is currently aware of the following number of active cases of COVID-19:

- Beechwood School – 0 // Deerfield School – 1 (Individual was not in school during infectious period)

Be well,

*Janet Walling*