

MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

October 28, 2020

Mountainside Families:

I hope that you are well. It is really quite amazing to realize that we are already finishing up our 2nd month of school! It wasn't that long ago that we weren't sure if we would be able to open our doors to students and staff, and here we are about to start November. It is truly only because of the dedication and diligence of our entire school community that this has been possible. I appreciate all of our families, both remote and in-person, for your continued support of our health and safety protocols along with your dedication to supporting your children's education. Your willingness to follow these expectations, your open communication regarding any possible health concerns, and your flexibility as we have adjusted to this new landscape continues to confirm what I already knew -- It truly takes a village to create a successful environment, and Mountainside is a prime example of this on a daily basis! I look forward to our continued work together as we strive for meaningful educational opportunities while working within the parameters and necessary adjustments that COVID-19 has created for all of us.

I would like to take a moment to share some important updates with you:

Revised School Calendar:

Please review the updated calendar that was approved at the October 20th Board of Education meeting. Specifically, please note that the following dates will be **Remote Instruction Days for ALL students**:

- Wednesday, November 25th
- Friday, December 11th
- Wednesday, December 23rd

On these days instruction will be provided to all students in a remote format on a shortened day schedule. Specific schedules will be shared by building principals and teachers in the near future.

In addition, please note that the following dates will now follow our current regular schedule for instruction:

- Wednesday, December 9th (*The remote portion of the day will be modified due to evening conferences*)
- Thursday, December 10th
- Friday, February 12th
- Thursday, April 22nd

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place in December this year. All conferences will be held in a virtual format and information for how to sign up and schedule a time to speak with your child's teacher will be shared in November.

Next Week:

Please remember that school will be closed for all students next week on **Tuesday, November 3rd, Thursday, November 5th and Friday, November 6th.** If a student, or staff member, travels internationally or to a state that is on the NJ Travel Advisory List, he/she will be expected to follow District protocol which states:

- Self-quarantine for 14 days following the date of return to New Jersey.
 - Students will still need to self-quarantine even if they receive a negative COVID test.
- Notify the building principal and/or school nurse of travel plans to determine the date that your child can return to In-Person Instruction.
- Students will be placed on temporary Remote Learning and assigned to a Remote Cohort to maintain consistency of education while on quarantine.

I wish you and your family a healthy and safe time off.

Regards, Janet Walling Janet Walling