



Mountainside Board Of Education

1497 Woodacres Dr., Mountainside, NJ 07092

908-232-3232

www.mountainsideschools.org

Mrs. Janet Walling – Superintendent of Schools

October 9, 2020

Mountainside Parents/Guardians:

Good afternoon and welcome to the end of our 5th week of school! I am so very pleased to share some observations and updates as we move into the heart of October.

First, I want to give a huge THANK YOU to everyone for your diligence, consistency of focus, and your support over the past month as we navigated this new landscape together. Your feedback has helped us to make adjustments quickly and smoothly, your diligence with the health and safety precautions has helped us to keep our doors open, and your support of your children's instruction in all formats has supported meaningful academic progress. I would also like to recognize our staff and administrators for creating a sense of community and normalcy for students as they returned to this school year. Through special activities such as "Start With Hello" and our Week of Respect as well as engaging in-person and remote lessons, our staff has consistently impressed me with their dedication to keeping your children and their well-being at the forefront of everything they do while adjusting to this new year themselves.

I would like to take a moment to share some important information:

- **Return to In-Person Instruction** -- November 2nd will be our first transition point where parents can choose to have their child(ren) return for In-Person Instruction. On Monday, October 12th a Parent Survey will be emailed to parents of all students who are currently receiving Remote Instruction. This survey will provide you with the opportunity to let us know if you wish to make an instructional change for your child. All forms will need to be submitted by October 19th to allow the school staff to prepare for any changes. Please refer to our [Remote Learning Protocols and Procedures](#) for further information and guidance on the process for moving between instructional formats.
- **Out-of-State and International Travel** – As we approach the holidays, and our extended weekend for Teachers' Convention in November, I would like to remind everyone of the district protocol regarding return to in-person instruction after travel. If a student, or staff member, travels internationally or to a state that is on the [NJ Travel Advisory List](#), the protocol is as follows:
 - 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. This is based upon New Jersey guidance which states: *If you are from an impacted state and get a diagnostic/virus test, you **should still self-quarantine for 14 days**. If you test negative, you are still advised to self-quarantine for 14 days because you remain in the incubation period. A*

diagnostic test is a point-in-time indicator from the date of when you were last exposed - in this case, being in a state with significant community spread of COVID-19.

- 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.

- **Free Lunch for ALL** – We are pleased to share that free grab and go lunches are now available to ALL Mountainside students through December 31st regardless of eligibility. Please see this [flier](#) for more information.

- **School Messenger System** – We will be conducting a test of our emergency notification system (School Messenger) at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 15th. During this test you should receive a phone call and email message. You may also receive a text if you already opted in for texting within this service. If you do not receive any of these messages in the form you expect, please [click here](#) and fill out the form. Our technology office will correct any issues with your contact information.

- **Substitutes Needed** – The Mountainside School District is always looking for qualified substitutes to work with our students. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a substitute in our schools application information can be found through this [link](#).

Through the collective efforts and dedication of everyone to maintaining all health and safety expectations and following through on our Reopening Plan guidelines, we are able to continue providing a high level of educational programming for all of our Mountainside students – thank you, and keep it up!

Be well and enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend,

Janet Walling

Mrs. Janet Walling