



MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JANET WALLING – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

May 21, 2021

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the beautiful weather this week. It has been nice to see our students outside more and participating in various traditional activities. Today, the 2nd graders had a wonderful time enjoying their Bike Rodeo. Special thanks to the Mountainside Police Department and our PTO who assisted with this special event. Last week our community was treated to an outdoor premiere of the middle school play. Congratulations to all of the students on their hard work with this amazing production! In addition, I'd like to send a shout out to our middle school baseball and softball teams – they have both been playing very well so far this season and we are pleased that they can once again safely participate in competitive sports!

Thank you to everyone for your support as we made the shift to fully synchronous learning this week. Our afternoon sessions are now in full swing and provide opportunities for academic enhancement and extension.

- **Please be aware that afternoon remote instruction will NOT take place on the following dates:**
 - **May 28th, June 8th, June 17th, June 18th**

I would like to clarify some confusion that has resulted from recent announcements and news regarding travel quarantines and mask protocols. **I fully appreciate how confusing this ever changing information can be, so please see the information below which outlines how these announcements apply in the school setting:**

Travel Quarantines: The NJ Department of Health sent a clarification to local health departments and schools on 5/20/21 which states:

- While NJ will be lifting their specific state quarantine guidance, individuals should still follow CDC travel guidance. CDC travel guidance states that individuals who are **not fully vaccinated** should quarantine after travel. **Students and staff who fit this criteria will be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative PCR test results collected at 3-5 days) as per our prior protocol.**
 - Specifically, this means that students or staff can return to school on day 11 after travel without testing, or they can return on day 8 with a negative PCR Test.
 - All dates and details must be verified and coordinated with the school nurse before return

Face Masks: The lifting of the outdoor mask mandate **does not** apply to schools or child care centers. This is specifically addressed in paragraph 2 (pg. 6) of the newest Executive Order No. 241. Based on this, **all school activities and functions will continue to follow all expectations and protocols that are currently in place. Parents and visitors will also continue to follow our masking expectations during the school day.**

Finally, I am pleased to share that Mountainside Schools will be offering a 4 week, in-person, **Summer Learning Academy** to support designated students entering grades 1-6. This program, which will be funded through the ESSER II Federal Grant, has been designed to provide academic enrichment and support for struggling students. Students will be chosen for participation through a review of multiple measures including academic progress, iReady assessment data, teacher input, and current participation in educational support programs. Program invitations will be sent out in the upcoming week to eligible students. While we are aware that many families may be interested in this program we unfortunately are not able to offer it to all students due to funding and staffing limitations.

As of today, Mountainside School District is aware of no active cases of COVID-19 – YAY!

Thank you for your continued support as we approach the end of this incredible year together! *Janet Walling*