



Mountainside School District

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Janet Walling - Superintendent of Schools

May 12, 2022

Mountainside Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good afternoon and I hope that you are well. It was so nice to see many of you at our recent Beechwood School concerts and I look forward to enjoying the rest of this concert series alongside you at our Deerfield School shows in the coming weeks! Our students have been working very hard over the past few months and we are proud of their efforts which have been seen through our NJSLA testing in grades 4-8 as well as everyone's academic, musical, and athletic accomplishments.

As we round this final corner in the year, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our students, programming, and the sometimes difficult decisions that we have needed to make in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for everyone this year. This has allowed us to return to a much more "normal" atmosphere with additional activities and opportunities for our students which we look forward to continuing. However, I do want to share that we have seen an uptick in our positive COVID-19 numbers within the schools along with an increase in flu cases, which is not typical at this time of the year. This week marks the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases that we have seen since the middle of February. The Westfield Regional Health Department also informed us that the Mountainside community saw a significant jump in reported cases from March to April. This trend has been seen throughout the state as well and resulted in our [CALI Region Activity Level](#) returning to an orange designation for the first time since the week of February 5th.

Currently, the District does not have plans to adjust our protocols or guidelines. However, we do want to bring this information to your attention and strongly encourage you to consider the use of masking indoors for your children while our region is at a high activity level, which is supported by our health professionals and the regional health department. Layered mitigation strategies will also remain in place, including adequate ventilation, physical distancing where possible, and thorough cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of classrooms and buildings.

Thank you for your consideration and your support as we look to finish this school year for our students and staff the way that we opened -- excited, healthy, and united.

Regards,

Janet Walling