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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The following is a list of COVID-19 protocols we will be employing during the school year. This is a brief overview of the contents of our *Road Forward* plan. For more detailed information about these protocols, you can see our *Road Forward* plan posted on the district website.

### **Mask Guidelines**

As of August 9, 2021, according to Executive Order 251, masks will be broadly required in school buildings for the coming school year. Exceptions will remain unchanged from the 2020-2021 school year and include:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Transportation: Per order of the CDC, passengers and drivers must wear masks on school buses, included on buses operated by public or private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the Order. All students and staff will wear masks on school buses unless there is an exemption, such as extreme heat. **Please send your child to school with a mask (or two) that suits him/her best.** We will have extras if needed.

**Distancing**

Six feet of distance will not be possible during the 2021-2022 school year with the return of all students to in-person instruction. Our district will take the following precautions: We will aim for 3-feet of distance between student desks in the classroom, group seating arrangements will be avoided or reduced to the extent possible, student desks will largely face forward, physical distancing of 3-feet will be attempted in common areas with large capacities such as cafeterias. Some group work or partner work may occur.

**Hand Hygiene**

Handwashing shall be encouraged and may happen at various times during the school day. These include: upon arrival at school, before and after meals, after going to the bathroom, before leaving for the day, after blowing one's nose or coughing, when hands are soiled. Students will be permitted to wash hands and use hand sanitizer at their own discretion but also at the instruction of staff members. Teachers will do their best to incorporate hand washing protocols into the school schedule. You may have your child bring hand sanitizer to school if you wish.

**Cafeterias and Meal Service**

Our cafeterias will be open for meal service. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students and will be free. Breakfast will be grab-n-go style and lunch will be served as limited items for the first few weeks of school. Then we will offer more buffet-style lunches.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Our district will continue with enhanced cleaning protocols for this school year. In addition, we will ensure that our unit ventilators bring in additional outside air for circulation.

**COVID Assurance/Screening**

Parents/caregivers must monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. One COVID Assurance checklist will be sent in the first *Genesis* blast of the school year. This will ensure all parents have read the signs and symptoms of COVID before the school year starts.

**Transportation**

Masks will be required on school buses. We will also outfit each bus with additional masks for student use and hand sanitizer as students board. Buses will be cleaned between runs. Finally, students will be assigned seats on school buses.

**Contact Tracing and Quarantine**

In the school setting, the CDC allows for a 3-foot distance when it comes to quarantining students from a positive case. This will assist us in avoiding large numbers of quarantined students. Of course, quarantine may be necessary based on proximity in the cafeteria, on the bus, or outside of school. We will work with the Department of Health (DOH) when it comes to quarantining students.

**Virtual Learning**

Unlike last year, we are unable to offer a fully virtual instructional program. We will be providing Home Instruction for students who are chronically ill. In the cases of quarantine, our school staff

will set up tutoring hours (very similar to Home Instruction) for our students. This will allow the student to work on some self-paced activities along with teacher guidance. There may be opportunities for teachers to bring the quarantined student(s) into the classroom via virtual synchronous instruction like last year but on a limited basis.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities and HSA Activities**

The district has approved the operation of sports, clubs and field trips for the 2021-2022 school year. We are hopeful that all of these activities will be offered throughout the year. District administration will review the COVID activity level and transmission rates in order to make a final determination regarding these offerings. We encourage parents to sign your child up for anything s/he may be interested in. Many HSA events have been approved and appear on the district calendar.

### **Travel**

The State of New Jersey no longer requires quarantine for domestic travel. The CDC recommends that individuals not travel internationally until they are fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated individuals are recommended to get tested 3-5 days after travel. The CDC recommends unvaccinated individuals arriving in the United States after international travel will be required to test negative and quarantine for 7 days.

Remember, the first day of school is on **September 8**. We look forward to seeing your child then.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools