



# Hawkswood School

TRANSFORMING LIVES, EVERYDAY

November 25, 2020

Dear Hawkswood School Parents/Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

Last week, New Jersey Central East Region's COVID-19 status was escalated from moderate to high risk (orange status) by the New Jersey Department of Health. As we have previously communicated to you, Hawkswood School has recently experienced instances of students and staff members who have confirmed cases, are symptomatic, or have been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

We have followed our COVID19 re-entry plan protocols, which, as you know, are quite extensive. At this time, as the number of staff and students who are under quarantine continues to rise, the health and safety of our school community becomes a greater concern and challenge.

**In consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health, Hawkswood School will be closing our school buildings and conducting virtual instruction beginning Monday, November 30, 2020 through Monday, January 18, 2021. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, as we anticipate that the number of confirmed cases in New Jersey may continue to rise over the upcoming holidays.**

This is not a decision that we take lightly, as we recognize that in-person instruction for our students is the most effective way to meet their individual educational and therapeutic needs. However, in the best interest of our community's health and safety, we are fortunate to have the ability to maintain continuity of instruction through distance (or remote) learning. While distance learning poses its own challenges, I'm sure you'll agree that our staff is very skilled, and works tirelessly to maintain your child's instructional and therapeutic programs.

Recently, you participated in a survey indicating your preferred method of receiving your child's instructional packets (electronic or hard-copy). In addition to each teacher's daily Google Meets, these instructional packets will be sent the week prior via your preferred method and will contain lessons for the following week. Additionally, your child's therapist(s) will carry out their sessions remotely via Google Meet invitation, and our paraprofessional staff will continue their support of students in coordination with the teachers and therapists.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this distance learning period closure, please contact me or School Nurse Katie Perrotto. For any instructional or therapeutic questions, kindly contact your child's teacher or therapist.

Wishing you and yours a safe and healthy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Orefice, Ed.D.  
Principal