



CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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School Board Member

CHRISTINE ROSS, Ph.D.
School Board Vice Chairman

October 29, 2021

RE: Week of November 22-26, 2021

Dear Families of CuCPS:

While everyone had hoped that the 2021-2022 school year would be a "return to normal" year, this has not turned out to be accurate. This year has brought a new set of challenges. Students are trying to adjust to five-day in-person learning, which has resulted in feelings of anxiety, stress to complete work, and fear of COVID-19. They have faced quarantining, learned to adjust to bended learning as needed, and tried to resume previous relationships with teachers and other students.

Educators have also had numerous challenges. Teachers have tried to remedy the "learning loss" brought about by the disruptions in in-person learning. They have tried to provide instruction for students who were in class as well as students who were learning from home due to quarantining or other issues. The division has struggled with shortages of substitute teachers, bus drivers, school nutrition staff, and custodians.

As you can see, this "new normal" has put great pressure on students, parents, and educators. Therefore, CuCPS has determined that, for the mental health and well-being of all stakeholders, there will be a change to the school schedule for the week of Thanksgiving. Students will still have a holiday on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (November 24-26), but will also have two remote learning days on Monday and Tuesday (November 22-23). Teachers will provide assignments and instructional materials (available on Friday, November 19) for the remote learning days.

Teachers will work remotely on Monday and Tuesday (November 22-23, 2021), to revise pacing guides and collaborate with colleagues on ways to combat the learning loss due to the pandemic. They will also have office hours for students to contact teachers. Students can contact teachers electronically as needed for help. Each school will provide additional information regarding the remote learning days. This will also provide time for custodial staff to engage in deeper cleaning of the facilities.

This break should allow families some flexibility in preparing for the holidays. We hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable Thanksgiving break.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chip Jones", is written over a faint, larger blue outline of the same signature.

Chip Jones, Ed.D.
Superintendent