

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardian and Members of the Community,

Since receiving the directive from the New Jersey Department of Education that in person instruction is mandatory by September 2020, the Restart and Recovery Planning Committee has been working to establish a plan where our students and staff can begin some form of in-person instruction. After conducting a Commitment Survey to our school community, approximately 54% (673) Responses of our families prefer that their children attend modified sessions, as long as all recommended health and safety guidelines are adhered to.

Since our schools and classrooms have limited space and social distancing is a priority, we established the implementation of a hybrid schedule that allows 50% of our student population to receive in person instruction while the remaining 50% of our students will be learning remotely at home. We have developed two cohorts of students, Cohort 1 & Cohort 2. Cohort 1 will receive in person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays and learn remotely on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays Cohort 2 will receive in person instruction on Thursdays and Fridays and will learn remotely on Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These in person cohorts will be four hours each day. Students in self-contained Special Education classes will receive in person instruction four times per week and will learn remotely on Wednesdays. Many, if not all related services will also take place during days of instruction. A "Grab & Go" lunch will be available daily. Every effort will be made to keep siblings in the same Cohort.

As a reminder, parents have the option for their child (children) to solely participate in fully remote learning. If the parent decides to choose this option, the student must continue with fully remote learning until the end of Phase 1, which runs from September 8, 2020 to November 4, 2020. Families who select the option of having their child (children) learn completely virtually will have the ability to reassign them to in person sessions after Phase 1.

Our Restart and Recovery Plan has been submitted to the Bergen County Interim Superintendent Office for review and we are waiting for approval of the plan prior to releasing it to the community. We are waiting on specific guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), as well as the New Jersey Department of Health (NHDOH), which may alter the plan. Additionally, a **Mandatory Survey** will be sent out on Tuesday, August 11th and must be returned by Friday, August 14th, to establish the number of students who will be participating in a Hybrid Model (in person & Virtual) or Completely Virtual.

We realize that everyone will still have questions. We will be providing more information, which will hopefully answer many of your inquiries.

As always, we would like to thank you for your continued support and patience during these difficult times. The health and safety of staff and students is our top priority.

Sincerely,

Nicholas L. Perrapato
Interim Superintendent
Eleanor Van Gelder School
251 Undercliff Avenue
Edgewater, NJ 07020