



January 12, 2021

Dear Hillside Public Schools Community,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone remains safe and healthy and had a wonderful winter break! We are genuinely excited to enter 2021 and continue to introduce new pathways that will lead to new possibilities for our school community.

The State of New Jersey continues to remain in the High-Risk category (orange) based on the New Jersey Department of Health's Weekly COVID-19 Activity Report. We remain committed to the health and safety of our school community amidst this dynamic global health crisis which continues to alter our lives. We want to ensure our school community has stability and consistency throughout the year as inconsistency; shifting from hybrid instruction to remote instruction, back to hybrid, will intensify learning loss.

Thus, as announced at the December Board of Education Meeting, the Hillside Public Schools **will continue to implement virtual/remote instruction for the remainder of the academic year unless trends in health, science, and legislation shift in a different direction.** We recognize the inconvenience this causes for parents and caretakers but want to ensure our school community is free from fear and free to learn. We genuinely thank our parents, caretakers, and community members who remain patient and understanding while continuing to make sacrifices on behalf of our students and this amazing town.

In other news, we continue to make advances in technology to improve virtual instruction and district wide communication. Our new district website will launch this week. We will continue to update it and add pertinent information to support families. Additionally, we have recently adopted GoGuardian, a tool that helps teachers keep students on task, safe, and away from inappropriate websites throughout the virtual instructional day. Moreover, we are working towards a single sign on solution for all technology platforms. In the interim, any parent/legal guardian that needs technology support with regards to passwords to Google or Genesis can email genesis@hillsidek12.net or call your child's school.

Finally, over the winter break, Governor Murphy announced high school winter sports can resume on January 2, 2021. We will resume winter sports at Hillside High School adhering to protocols established by the NJSIAA and NJDOE. No spectators will be allowed at games. Our Director of Athletics, Mr. McNeil, will be providing livestream information for games in the near future. Please visit our high school website for more information.

We remain committed to doing everything possible to ensure all students have access rigorous-accelerating academic experiences and resources while receiving the social emotional support needed to be successful in the future. We encourage families to reach out to your child's principal, or our directors of guidance and special services if additional

support is needed. I've included their contact information below. In the coming weeks, we will be announcing a series of district wide parent engagement workshops to support virtual learning and academic planning for your child's future.

In closing, let's work together to ensure this once in a century pandemic does not derail the dreams and aspirations of our students. We appreciate your patience and support. As always, a better tomorrow starts with us today.

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Educationally yours,



A. Robert Gregory
Interim Superintendent