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May 14, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know our region recently shifted to moderate (yellow) transmission for Covid-19. We are also seeing a sharp decline of Covid cases in the Township and in our schools. To that end, I am very happy to announce the following changes to our current hybrid plans, as of **Monday, May 17th**. These changes are in consultation with the local health department, in line with guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health, and have been approved by the New Jersey Department of Education.

- Virtual Wednesdays for all grade levels, will be eliminated. The schools and classrooms will continue to be thoroughly cleaned on a nightly basis.
- The High School will eliminate cohorts and students will follow a full-day, Monday through Friday, regular schedule. This will have implications on aspects of the HS operations (parking, classroom changes, etc.); the High School will communicate those changes in a separate communication.
- Pre-K through fifth grade students will follow a Monday through Friday, early dismissal schedule.
- **Unfortunately, due to the large class sizes, the number of students participating in-person for instruction, and the smaller physical space of the rooms, the Middle School is unable to combine cohorts at this time.** The Middle School will communicate the cohort schedule for Wednesdays in a separate communication. In the event new guidelines are established that will allow for five, full-days of combined cohort instruction, changes will be made.

The district understands that this is short notice for our families, however, I believe that it is important to increase in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible. Should you need longer to respond to these changes for your child's schedule, please reach out to your child's school.

Since the number of positive cases has been so small, and on some days zero, there is no longer a necessity to communicate daily with our parents and staff. Going forward, my office will only advise on days that positive cases have been confirmed. For today, Friday, May 14th, there is one positive case to report at the High School.

Our district continues to follow all New Jersey Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocols in ensuring the health and safety of our community.

- Proper and consistent use of a cloth face covering;
- Social distancing in accordance with Department of Health guidelines;
- Frequent handwashing and hand sanitization;
- Respiratory etiquette for coughs and sneezes; and
- Staying home when ill and following established quarantine protocols.

If you have any questions regarding school policy and procedures related to Covid-19, please contact your child's school. If you have concerns or questions regarding Covid-19, please visit Jefferson Township's Covid-19 resource webpage at:

<https://www.jeffersontownship.net/496/COVID-19-Resources> or contact the Jefferson Township Health Department.

Be well,

***Jeanne Howe***

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