



NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DAVID M. MICELI, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
908-464-9050 (ext. 4225)

LAUREN ZIRPOLI
Assistant Superintendent of
Educational Services
908-464-9050 (ext. 4222)

JAMES E. TESTA
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
908-464-9050 (ext. 4223)

JOHN M. RICHTER, JR.
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction, and Supervision
908-464-9050 (ext. 4221)

356 ELKWOOD AVENUE • NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ 07974 • FAX (908) 464-4813 • www.npsd.k12.nj.us

January 12, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians & Staff:

Happy New Year! I hope that the past three weeks have provided you with the opportunity for enjoyable time with family and friends, while relaxing and embracing the holiday spirit. We've all come to recognize the distinct differences this year, but hopefully you were able to make new and lasting memories.

As a district, I am proud of the vigilance of our community over the past four months. The efforts of many have allowed for the continuation of in-person instruction at all four schools, and for many of our extracurricular activities to continue as well. I commend the many students who have remained responsible during these times, as hard as I know that has been. I am, however, disappointed at the irresponsible actions of a few over the past two weeks leading up to today. The clear and resounding message that we have been trying to convey to all constituents since last summer is the following: The actions of an individual, more so than ever before in our school setting, can have grand implications for many individuals in our school community.

Hosting and attending large parties, lack of social distancing and wearing masks, and knowingly attending school or extracurricular activities while awaiting test results and/or being symptomatic is completely irresponsible. The health and safety of our students and staff are at risk. These behaviors are now leading themselves to large group quarantines, and postponement of school extracurricular activities. These selfish behaviors are negating the sacrifices of our responsible students. It is extremely frustrating for students and families to be impacted this way when so much has been done to create a safe environment for all students to continue to participate in school and extracurricular activities to the best extent possible.

I want to remind you of our guiding principles as they have served us well from the beginning of this pandemic. They are:

1. *Health and Safety; of all students and staff.*
2. *Communication; ongoing among all constituents.*
3. *Learning; uphold the integrity of our instructional program.*
4. *Engagement; ensure equitable access for all students.*
5. *Wellness; prioritize social and emotional needs and development.*
6. *Empathy; caring for one another.*

I know that as time goes on, we are trying to find compromise, but we must remain steadfast so that our school community may remain safe. We are approaching phase two of our return to school, but the health of our community remains the number one factor in taking these next steps. An increase in cases over the next few weeks may put pause to our plans. I urge everyone to revisit all of our safety protocols, increase transparency, stay home when you are not feeling well, and communicate with us as soon as possible when you may have a concern or issue. As a community we must continue to care for one another.

Sincerely,

Superintendent of Schools