



## NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 17, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians:

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts, which have allowed our schools to continue to be open for in-person instruction. Our protocol has worked, but I'm concerned that as the weather begins to change, and we are forced to be inside more, we will need to be even more cautious and vigilant with our routines. As we approach the holiday season, the number of positive Covid-19 cases are increasing locally, in the state, and across the nation. With that said, I want to reiterate that as a school community we must become even more vigilant in our daily practices.

Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in students attending school that should have stayed home due to their symptoms. This decision has grand implications for the students and teachers when this individual comes into the school setting. Our health and safety protocol in this case requires significant movement of students and cleaning of classrooms and disrupts the school day for many. Please make sure that your child(ren) stay home if they are experiencing any Covid-like symptoms. It is critical that we take care of one another during these times. Remember that your decisions can impact many people in the classroom, on the field, and in the entire school community.

With respect to travel, please be transparent with us if you do intend on traveling. There are many travel restrictions at this time, and most agencies and state authorities are recommending that we not travel or engage with family and friends in large groups. If you do need to travel, please be transparent with us for the sake of all of our students and staff. Please contact your building principal so that we may accommodate your situation.

I want to also remind you that with the change in our school calendar for the holiday season, we did try to create an opportunity for people to see family and friends in a safe manner by providing a remote setting for the week prior to and after the holiday break. We ask that you use this opportunity strategically as opposed to the weeks leading up to the holiday vacation. It would be greatly appreciated.

As we enter the winter season, I also want to make you aware of the Department of Education's recent correspondence regarding closure of school for inclement weather. With our ability to provide remote instruction to all of our students, and therefore provide a legitimate school day, it will not be necessary to close school, have a delayed opening, or dismiss early. In the event we have any inclement weather days, I will notify the community of a remote-only day for Pre-K through 12. Please be reminded to take home your technology tools and resources each day so that you are able to engage in remote-learning, if necessary, due to inclement weather. In the event we do not need to use any of our snow days this year, we will adjust the school calendar accordingly once we get past the winter season.

Our intent is to stay open for in-person instruction for as long as we can, but we are continuing to monitor our community's health and will transition to remote only if necessary. Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Miceli, Ed.D.".

Superintendent of Schools