



ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Rockaway Township School Community,

I hope everyone is well. I have some difficult updates to share with the community.

Since the launch of our hybrid model for in-person and virtual learning back in September, I noted I would frequently reassess our plan against the ever-changing conditions of the pandemic and work in close consultation with local health officials.

As the conditions of the pandemic worsened this past month, we demonstrated the ability to quickly move from hybrid to virtual back to hybrid with, at times, very little notice. Our ability to execute these moves is a credit entirely to the talent of our teachers, leaders, and staff and I could not be prouder of them. I would be remiss to not acknowledge, however, the back and forth nature of these moves are taxing on everyone. Furthermore, the launch and the sustained operation of our hybrid instructional model from September through the present also has taken a toll on everyone. This concerns me greatly.

I believe we need a period of reliable, consistent schedules for everyone to ensure our District will sustain the operation of our hybrid model through the winter and spring months. Therefore, I am announcing the following changes to our operation.

- Effective immediately, Copeland Middle School will operate a full virtual schedule through January 15th.
- Effective Monday, December 14th, all five elementary schools will operate on a full virtual schedule through January 15th.
- All schools will return to our hybrid model on Tuesday, January 19th as a Green Day.

I deeply regret this decision may disappoint many in our community. It is not one I came to easily or without much deliberation. You are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns.

In closing, I remain grateful for our partnership with the community these past few months. Together, we safely reopened our schools and provided significant and sustained amounts of in-person instruction for all our students. The decision I share today is driven by my commitment to ensuring we will maintain this level of performance through the remainder of this school year. Thank you for your ongoing patience and support.

Warmest Regards,

Peter Turnamian, Ed. D.

Rockaway Township Schools... Opening minds, opening worlds so every child's potential becomes a reality and challenges become opportunities for personal success!