

# South Hackensack School District

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Mark Hayes, Interim Superintendent

Jason Chirichella, Principal

Carla Moreno, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Dina Messery, Business Administrator

Elizabete Schaefer, Board Secretary



"A Tradition of Caring"

January 12, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well and that you had a joyful holiday season. The South Hackensack School District has the health and safety of our staff, students, and entire school community as our number one priority during this challenging time. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, South Hackensack, in coordination with the Bergen County Department of Health (BCDOH), implemented a Full Remote learning model through January 18, 2021.

At that time, based on the New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix and the NJDOH's weekly COVID-19 Activity Level Report, our region (Northeast) was identified as "High Risk" (**Orange classification**) for the transmission of COVID-19. Since then, we have continued to closely monitor the COVID-19 data within our area and region. The NJDOH's weekly COVID-19 Activity Level Report has continued to report a percent positivity rate in the "High Risk" category with an increase just this past week. This can largely be attributed to the holiday season gatherings and/or traveling.

Based on this data and guidance from the NJDOH's COVID -19 Regional Risk Matrix, and in coordination with the BCDOH, the ***South Hackensack School District will continue to implement a Full Remote learning model through January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.***

## Continued Full Remote Learning Dates:

***January 19<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>***

As a result, the return to school date for our Hybrid/In-Person instructional model is **Monday, February 1st**, which also marks the **first day of the third marking period**. We are kindly asking all parents/guardians to please check your emails by the end of this week, as you will receive more information about the details to the reopening plan. Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, so we may continue planning and preparation procedures to reopen school for February 1st. The email will consist of:

- Updated school reminders for our continued Phase II implementation
- A parent friendly update to the new health protocols for COVID-19 provided by the NJ Department of Health
- A link to a Google form survey
- The February Hybrid/In-Person calendar.

As stated earlier, the health and safety of our staff, students, and school community is our top priority in this decision-making process. We will continue to monitor daily and weekly COVID-19-related reports. As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. We are all in this together. Please continue to be responsible, honest, and mindful during this time. Thank you and stay safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Hayes", with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Mark Hayes  
Interim Superintendent