

ANNA SCIACCA
Superintendent of Schools

October 30, 2020

Re: Delay of In-Person Instruction until January 25, 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

As you are aware from my letter dated October 27, 2020, the Garfield District administration and Board of Education has reevaluated our decision to open for In Person instruction based on the most current data of positive Covid cases in the Garfield community. Garfield has experienced the highest spike in number of positive cases in Bergen County, having recorded 155 positive cases of Covid-19 in the month of October. The data also indicates that the positive cases are now more prominent among younger individuals, including school-aged children. *Based upon this information, the local Department of Health has recommended that the district delays the start of In -Person instruction.*

While these decisions are exceptionally difficult, the district must always prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff, and members of the community. *Due to the fact that the holiday season is upon us and the spread of the virus is more likely to occur due to interstate travel, family gatherings, and indoor socializing, In-Person instruction is scheduled to begin on January 25, 2021.* We are hopeful that the Covid situation in our community will improve, however, data will once again be evaluated at that time. The school administrators will reach out to parents prior to January 25th to confirm the choice of fully remote or in person instruction. Parents are always advised to make the decision that best meets the needs of their own children and families.

While we are disappointed by these latest Covid statistics and the delay in the return to In-Person instruction, the district remains committed to making remote learning as effective as possible. If your child is experiencing difficulties, it is very important that the parent communicates the issues with the school administrator and teacher. We ask that you emphasize the importance of participation in remote classes by making sure the student is on time for classes, allowing the student a quiet space to learn and ensuring that the computer device is working properly. If any student does not have a working computer and/or internet connectivity in the household, the building administrator should be notified immediately.

As always, thank you for your support, patience, and understanding as we work through the challenges presented by this health pandemic. Due to the rise in Covid -19 positive cases, it is extremely important that you continue to follow the CDC's safeguards and recommendations and remain vigilant to containing the spread of Covid-19 in your household and the Garfield community.

Regards,

Anna Sciacca

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