

Dear Mendham Township SD Families,

Thank you for your guidance and feedback as we prepare for a return to school. I am grateful for the outpouring of questions, perspectives, and ideas that have been shared in the last several weeks and months.

We have heard you through participation in web meetings, board of education meetings, emails, and phone calls, and our survey of more than 400 families. Our board meetings over the last few months have seen record-breaking participation.

On Tuesday, July 21, the Mendham Township Board of Education approved our Return to School Plan that we believe provides the best balance of safety and academic success for our students. This plan includes three different options that the District may enact, based on the current conditions and governmental directives. Because no plan that includes classroom instruction is completely without health risk, we encourage families for whom in-person instruction does not make sense to explore other options contained in the Return to School Plan.

For parents and guardians concerned about their family's or their student's health in an in-person school environment, several options are available to you, including a hybrid model at the middle school level and distance learning model at all levels. If you're considering this option, please make sure you complete our District survey which you should receive in your email next week. Please review the attached summary document in its entirety. This is an outline of our overall plan and policies in place to return to school. The details of the plans are being communicated through grade-level specific meetings, the District weekly communication schedule, and supplemental resources like the FAQ on the website.

Throughout both the summer and academic year, we will continue to follow guidance from Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and our local Health Department regarding the overall health and transmission risk within our state and community. We are prepared to transition to a hybrid attendance model or a completely remote environment should that be necessary.

We realize that communication with our families is vital to our success. Throughout the coming weeks, we will offer frequent and focused communications on topic areas essential to a safe return to school.

While the 2020–2021 school year will certainly be different, it creates new opportunities for us to be more innovative and flexible than ever. And through it all, our commitment will remain the same, preparing our students for life through academic achievement, personal well-being, and care for others. We will come out of this together stronger and better than ever. Thank you for your support.