



BUNKER HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

372 PITMAN DOWNER ROAD
SEWELL, NJ 08080

856.881.7007
Fax 856.881.5414

"Bulldog...It's more than our mascot; it's our character"

*Michael J. D'Ostilio
Principal*

*Gregory Muscelli, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal*

October 5, 2020

Dear Bulldog Families,

Please review this letter regarding an update on our remote pivot as well as vital attendance information. I greatly appreciate you reviewing these two items.

COVID-19 Positive Update

We are in the final stages of our contact tracing. Due to our tracing and the notification provided to some individuals, some have opted to seek testing. As we await the results of the "COVID" test, we will continue to be full synchronous remote. Our hope is by Wednesday we have a complete picture of those direct contacts and their exposure to help make decisions for the remainder of the week. I remain optimistic that we will be back in the hybrid setting soon.

At this juncture, anyone who was a close contact of the individual has been notified. Furthermore, anyone who was not considered a close contact was not notified. This is an important distinction because if you have not been notified already that your child was in close contact with the individual, you can assume (in our consultations with the Gloucester County Department of Health) that your child is at low to non-existent risk of exposure. Additionally, the tracing is confined to our building and does not necessitate a review of transportation and bus seating at this time.

A close contact is someone who is around a person who is COVID positive less than 6 feet in proximity, for more than 10 minutes, and without proper mask wearing protocols. Keep in mind our classrooms and halls are "social distanced"; no one is less than 6 feet from each other for more than 10 minutes; everyone is advised to wear masks properly. Properly abiding by those directives is a must.

Attendance

The expectation was that all students attended live virtual instruction today where the teacher was online and the students were engaging in simultaneous learning with the teacher. Tomorrow is a similar situation where we are having synchronous instruction. **Failure to attend class when the stipulation is synchronous (in real time) renders a student truant, which is being documented by the school.** When there is synchronous instruction (like today and tomorrow), attendance is not optional. It is compulsory as mandated by the state. Similarly, in the Hybrid/Remote model we've been using, when a child is working remotely during the Hybrid days, logging into Schoology to obtain and do classwork is an absolute must for the success of one's academics. Please note that it is my expectation of students who are remote or in person that students keep up with their work and attend office hours to ensure they

are interacting with their teacher for the necessary assistance. Furthermore, teachers will often reach out to students to discuss work or provide feedback.

Again, tomorrow, October 6, 2020 is Live Synchronous Instruction. To reiterate last night's letter:

That means all staff (except for essential personnel) and students will work remotely tomorrow. We will work synchronously as similar to the first two weeks of school, where students will attend live virtual classes based on the periods they are assigned.

To recap, all students, regardless of their cohort (A, B, C, or Remote) should plan to attend periods 1-4 on Monday and periods 5-8 on Tuesday. Here is the schedule below. Students will log in at the specified time.

Monday 10/5/20	Tuesday 10/6/20
Period 1...8:13-9:13 am	Period 5...8:13-9:13 am
Period 2...9:16-10:16am	Period 6...9:16-10:16 am
Period 3...10:19-11:19 am	Period 7...10:19-11:19 am
Period 4...11:22 am-12:22 pm	Period 8...11:22-12:22 PM

Students should also be interacting with their teachers from 1:45-3pm if they have any concerns or need to make up work. Teachers are available during the above time as well as during specific office hours on Wednesday to provide academic support for your child.

Thank you immensely for always supporting our efforts at BHMS.

Take Care Bulldog Families,


Mike D'Ostilio