

HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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December 4, 2020

Dear High Point Community:

As we approach our anticipated return to in-person learning on Monday December 14, I thought it necessary to communicate how we shall proceed moving forward given the guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19 management.

We believe the educators at High Point have performed exceedingly well and that they have worked incredibly hard to transition our students to effective remote learning; however, we also believe that there is no substitute for a student in a classroom of their peers with a well-trained professional educator in the classroom. We also believe that the medical data clearly indicates that students and staff are not contracting or spreading the virus in the highly controlled school environment. It is our goal and expectation to continue in-person learning beginning Monday December 14, and remaining open for in-person instruction, as long as is permitted by the NJDOH, NJDOE and the Governor.

The following will serve as the criteria by which we will cease in-person learning, in the future:

1. The Governor issues an executive order requiring High Point to close, as was the case in March; or
2. The COVID-19 Activity Level Report (matrix) for our region moves to Red/Very High; or
3. The DOH determines that an outbreak, as recently clarified (transmission of virus within school setting), has occurred; or
4. High Point is directed to close by the DOH.

As stated above, it is our goal and plan to be open for in-person learning; however, the above criteria may dictate our move to fully remote learning at any point. It is the unfortunate reality with which we have all contended since March. We will be sure to maintain frequent communication so as to alert the community immediately of any changes.

As always, please feel free to contact us should you have questions: Superintendent Dr. Scott Ripley [SRipley@hpregional.org], Principal Jon Tallamy [JTallamy@hpregional.org] or call the school at 973.875.3101: we will respond to all inquiries, as soon as we are able.

Below are some resources that might be helpful.

a. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml

b. Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

c. Symptoms of COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptomstesting/symptoms.html>

d. Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>;

<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>

e. How to Protect Yourself:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-gettingsick/prevention.html>

f. What to Do if You Are Sick:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/stepswhen-sick.html>

g. Regional Activity Level Report

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

h. December 3, 2020 Sussex County COVID-19 Report

<https://www.sussex.nj.us/documents/coronavirus-2020/20201203-CDRSS.pdf>

i. Winter Holiday and Celebration Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic

https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_GuidanceWinterHolidays.pdf

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Ripley", written over a circular scribble.

Scott D. Ripley, Ed.D.
Superintendent