

Dear Rutherford School Community,

The Rutherford Board of Education would like to echo and support the Mayor and Council, as well as Rutherford Chief of Police John Russo's messages, sent to the community on November 13, to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in the Borough. As cases of COVID-19 increase at an unprecedented rate in the Borough and around the state, the Rutherford Board of Education is asking for all students, as well as the parents, to strictly follow the CORE FOUR: staying home when sick; practicing physical distancing; wearing a mask; and practicing healthy hand hygiene.

In addition to following these safe practices inside the classroom, we need to stress the importance of doing the same while outside of school. As such, the Board of Education is urging all community members to do their part to limit exposure to large gatherings, avoid unnecessary travel, and follow the guidance provided by the CDC, the State of New Jersey, and the Rutherford Health Department as it pertains to COVID-19.

The fact of the matter is our schools have had to either close or quarantine students or staff several times this academic year as a direct result of activities which have occurred outside the classroom. These occurrences have had a direct impact on the district's ability to keep our schools safe, open and operational. As we enter into the holiday season, we ask for every community members' commitment to keeping our schools open by following the CORE FOUR and allowing our students to continue the essential business or education.

The Board of Education is committed to keeping our students learning in person for as long as we can safely continue to do so, fostering their academic education as well as their social and emotional learning. Please keep in mind there may be a time when this may no longer be possible, but rest assured our building administrators and the superintendent of schools are in regular contact with local and county health officials monitoring the situation and constantly assessing the best and safest pathway forward.

All this said, the Board of Education implores every student, parent, and community member to do their part to help flatten the COVID-19 curve and keep themselves and others safe.

Sincerely,
Sergio Alati, President
Dennis Mazone, Vice President
Shelly Ahmed
Chris Conti
Dennis Healy
Diane M. Jones
Sally Librera
Greg Recine
James Sprayberry