

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

27 Bank Street
Sussex, NJ 07461
973-875-3175
FAX: (973) 875-7175

MICHAEL GALL
SUPERINTENDENT
E-mail: mgall@swregional.org

Brenda VanWarner
Administrative Assistant

CHRISTINA M. RIKER
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
E-mail: criker@swregional.org

Nancy Sisto
Administrative Assistant

November 17, 2020

Dear Sussex-Wantage Community,

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and safe. As you are aware, our school district has worked closely with the Sussex County and New Jersey Departments of Health (DOH) and the New Jersey Department of Education to implement the required procedures in response to COVID-19. Recently, we were informed by the DOH that the current data indicate that our region is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases and is moving from a region of moderate risk (yellow) to high risk (orange). If the region becomes high risk, the DOH protocols for handling positive, probable, and possible COVID-19 cases in schools become more stringent, as do the standards for contact tracing and quarantine. The New Jersey DOH recommends that school districts consider moving to fully remote learning in the event our regional status changes to high risk (orange). The data provided by the NJDOH can be found in their *Weekly Activity Report* using the link below.

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

Should the risk level increase and a need for full remote instruction arise, our school district may need to pivot quickly on the recommendation of the DOH to remote learning for all students. A decision of this nature won't be made lightly. It will be based on data and guidance from our DOH. The purpose of this notification is to give you as much notice as possible that taking such an action may become necessary and may be for an extended time. Everyone should begin to prepare for that possibility. Please know that the health and well-being of our students, staff, and the entire school community are of the utmost importance to us. I anticipate receiving updated data from the DOH by this weekend and will continue to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Michael Gall
Superintendent/CEL Principal