



November 3, 2020

Dear Link staff and families,

We are reaching out to share an important change in our structure this week to provide for three consecutive days of deep cleaning. We will have ALL remote instruction tomorrow, Wednesday, November 3rd, and Thursday, November 4th. No students or staff will be in the school building for instruction on either day. As planned, Friday, we will have no school but our staff will be engaged in professional development, staff meetings, and instructional planning and preparation, all conducted remotely.

We learned that one of our staff members has had close contact with someone outside our school who tested positive for COVID-19 coronavirus yesterday and that staff member is exhibiting symptoms. We have been practicing social distancing and wearing masks in our school building, as well as meeting and even exceeding New Jersey and Center for Disease Control recommendations with frequent sanitizing throughout the school day, plastic shielding, hand sanitizer stations, air filtration, etc., but we are taking this step in an abundance of caution. Over the course of the next three days (today, Wednesday and Thursday), we will conduct deep cleaning and provide ventilation in our school building.

We have notified the Newark Department of Health, as is required in New Jersey public schools. We are also notifying all staff and all our school families to maintain transparency and support our entire school community. We urge continued vigilance with our health and safety protocols, as well as taking great care when outside of school. Please remember if anyone in your household has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or is experiencing any symptoms please do not come to the school/send your child to school and notify us right away.

Second quarter student supply pick-up, scheduled for Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th, will be conducted outside the building on the sidewalk with social distancing and plastic shielding in place. Masks will also be required of all staff and families during the pickup. By transitioning to outdoor pick-up, we can better support a healthy environment.

As you are probably aware, Newark has experienced a significant surge in positive cases in recent weeks resulting in a hot spot being declared close to the school building. With cases on the rise in our region and close to the school building, we are taking extra precautions at Link. We are grateful to our staff and our families for supporting the practices we have implemented since September 8th, the first day of school. The health and safety of our entire school community is most important to us. Together, we will meet the continued challenges during this pandemic and support one another.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact either of us. If you experience COVID-19 symptoms (fever, chills, body aches, congestion, respiratory distress, etc.), please contact your doctor or an urgent care facility.

Sincerely,

Maria Pilar Paradiso
Head of School
mparadiso@linkschool.org

Kathleen M. Hester, Ed.S.
Principal
khester@linkschool.org