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August 20, 2021

Dear Cherry Hill Community,

We are now less than 3 weeks from the opening of the 2021-2022 academic year on Thursday, September 9, 2021. We are thrilled to welcome nearly 11,000 students back into our schools for full, regular days of school.

As we welcome our students back to school, we will follow [Executive Order 251](#) signed by Governor Murphy on August 6, 2021. Executive Order 251 states:

- “1. All public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (collectively “school districts”), must maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in the following circumstances:
- a. When doing so would inhibit the individual’s health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
  - b. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face masks without assistance;
  - c. When a student’s documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
  - d. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
  - e. When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
  - f. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
  - g. When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
  - h. When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.”

This Executive Order went into effect on Monday, August 9, 2021. The order aligns with the Cherry Hill Public Schools’ masking requirements for students, staff members, and visitors, which have been in effect since last summer. The district continues to require that all persons in its buildings be masked at all times, including outside of regular school hours.

Please be aware that our masking requirements extend to all meetings and events held in our buildings after the regular school day. For visitors to enter our buildings, face masks are required and social distancing will be observed at all times while in the building. Anyone not wearing a face mask will not be admitted to any district buildings.

The Cherry Hill School District and the Board of Education take very seriously their responsibility to provide a safe environment for students, staff and members of the public. We believe in and are bound by the expectations of the laws, statutes, and executive orders of the State of New Jersey and of the United States. The District expects and requires students, staff and visitors to fully comply with Executive Order 251. For our students and staff, securing accommodations in regard to masking is a very clear and well-defined process involving a physician's orders, a review of the orders by the district's physician, and the inclusion of the accommodation in a formalized plan. If you have questions about your child's status, please contact the building principal.

We respect the members of the community and understand that some members are dealing with disabling health conditions that may require an accommodation. The accommodation for individuals with disabilities who are unable to wear a mask to Board of Education Meetings is to participate in the meetings remotely via Zoom on their device of choice: computer, electronic tablet, cell phone or landline phone. Again, unmasked community members will not be permitted to enter the building where the Board meeting is being held. They may participate in the meeting remotely via Zoom, as may any other community member who chooses to do so.

The Americans with Disabilities Act does not allow anyone to refuse compliance with mask requirements without taking other precautions. The district will deny admission to its buildings to persons who have not complied with the accommodation request process regarding mask requirements

We would like to thank everyone for working with us as we continue to take measures to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Meloche".

Joseph Meloche, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools