

Wed, Jan 13, 2021

Dear Families and Staff;

I hope that the return to school has been smooth for you and your children. I visited Hughes Elementary for the first Plan A day and all of the students were so excited to be back in school. I also stopped by Mountain Park and all was running smoothly there as well.

We are looking forward to our high school students returning on January 25th. Right now, there are 25 cases at GLHS, most of these are directly related to the student parties over holiday break. It is clear that our ability to return to in-person instruction is dependent upon the cooperation of the community. If parents allow their children to attend large gatherings it is inevitable that we will have to close.

I have received a few questions regarding the difference between the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, and the other Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees. The Task Force, which we are in the process of forming, will be focusing on developing long term goals and, particularly, metrics to foster and measure systemic change within the Berkeley Heights Public Schools. Systemic cultural change is a slow process that will likely take several years to achieve, the Task Force will provide the road map and the signpost that let us know the direction we are moving in and the progress we are making along the way.

The individual DEI committees are tasked with celebrating, communicating, and educating students and staff about the diversity in our district. Ultimately, the DEI committees are looking to create a culture of inclusivity within the buildings where all students feel welcomed and accepted. To do this the committees are looking to create a safe space to have difficult conversations and at CMS and GLHS to empower students to take ownership of building a positive school culture. All of the Diversity Committees coordinate different individual activities, organize school-wide events and discuss curricular and instructional approaches.

You can view our COVID Dashboard [here](#).

New Cases (1/8/21)		
School	Staff/Student	Result
GLHS	9 Students	No in school exposure
CMS	1 Student	No in school exposure

Have a great rest of the week!

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Varley