

Good afternoon,

Spring Break is almost here! Due to the fact that Governor Murphy has maintained the quarantine for any travel outside of the tri-state area (NY, CT, PA) plus Delaware, the district will be in **remote instruction** for the week of April 5th. If you travel outside of the four-state region, please adhere to the required 10 day quarantine without a COVID test or 7 day quarantine with a negative COVID test.

The CDC has reduced the social distancing requirements for students in schools. The new guidelines recommend 3 feet of distance, without barriers, for masked students. See the article [here](#). In addition, there is a [Massachusetts Study](#) that supports the CDC recommendation by concluding that masked people socially distanced at three feet have minimal risk of spreading the virus. In an excess of caution, the district will exceed the CDC recommendations by continuing to use barriers when all students, grades 1-12, return to in-person instruction on April 12. To be clear, **all students** will be in person every day in grades 1-12 starting April 12th, except for those students who would like to stay fully remote.

I would like to take a moment to offer my condolences to, and support for, our Asian community members. Once again, we find the nightly news filled with images of violence directed against a minority community. Once again, we are confronted by news of a mass shooting of innocent people at work, or out shopping. As a parent, I struggle to answer my daughter's questions; trying to help them understand the whys, when I am not sure I completely understand them myself. I do not know how to solve the deep-seated problems of racism or gun violence in America. There is a feeling of powerlessness in the face of so much violence and the hatred that drives it.

As a parent I struggle. But as an educator I know that the answer is in our children. Our children will build a better tomorrow because of what we teach them today. I also know that we overcome by coming together as a community. Together we mourn; together we find strength in our diversity; together we proclaim our resolve to stop the hatred and the violence.

In this spirit I invite you to be supportive of our Asian community members at the #StopAsianHate Rally and Vigil that will be held on Saturday, March 27th, from 2-3 PM at Berkeley Heights Memorial Park. Parking will be available at the train station. I hope to see you there. Please see the attached flyer. [Stop Asian Hate Flyer.pdf](#)

For our COVID Update:

New Cases (since 3/22 update)		
School	Staff/Student	Result
Woodruff	1 Student	Last day in School 3/19 Close contacts notified

MKM	1 Student	Last day in School 13/16 No in-school exposure
MP	1 Student	Last day in School 3/12 No in-school exposure
GL	4 Students	All remote students No in-school exposure

Sincerely,
Dr. Melissa Varley