



RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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July 10, 2020

Dear Ridgewood Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to provide an update on the progress toward our reopening plans and to share the link to an important parent survey that will help inform our work as we prepare for the anticipated reopening of schools in September. District plans must be aligned with the New Jersey Department of Education's "The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education" that was released on June 26, and it is important to note that the directives may evolve over time.

In mid-May, the district established administrative subcommittees to begin to examine areas that must be addressed for the 2020-2021 school year. These reopening subcommittees have been developing adaptable instructional models with the primary consideration being the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students and staff. As we completed our first experience with remote instruction in June, we sent parent and teacher surveys to gather feedback on the experience to determine how to continue to enhance this new paradigm for both educators and students. This input has contributed to our instructional and operational considerations for the fall, in combination with the parameters set forth by the NJDOE and the CDC. Furthermore, we have collaborated with neighboring districts and colleagues in other parts of the state throughout this process.

In tandem with developing reopening plans, the district is offering summer professional development for teachers to afford them the opportunity to advance their knowledge of tools and platforms essential to a virtual or blended learning environment. Administrators have also engaged in NJDOE/Legal One webinars to inform district planning. Members of the administrative subcommittees are named on the attached list, and as the work progresses, additional stakeholders will be included in the process through school-based communication. Our reopening plan is due to the Bergen County Office of Education by July 27, and we will be presenting our plan to the public that evening at our Board of Education meeting.

At this time, we ask that you complete the parent survey at the link below by Wednesday, July 15.

<https://forms.gle/PrRYqU8f4dHnRd7Z6>

Thank you in advance for helping us to provide the best possible scenario for the start of school in September.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

C: Ridgewood Board of Education





Ridgewood Public Schools

Reopening Plan Subcommittee Members

Instruction and School Operations

- Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources
- Dr. Thomas Gorman, Principal, Ridgewood High School
- Dr. Michelle Fenwick, Director of Special Programs
- Anthony Orsini, Principal, Benjamin Franklin Middle School
- Mary Ferreri, Principal, Orchard Elementary School
- Dr. Margy Leininger, Principal, Travel Elementary School (retired June 30, 2020)
- Susan Nold, Supervisor of English Language Arts
- Mark Ferreri, Supervisor of Social Studies, World Languages and Business
- Jeannie O'Neill, Supervisor of Elementary Education
- Keith Cook, Athletic Director

Facilities

- Antoinette Kelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Joann Khoury-Frias, Assistant Business Administrator
- Dr. Paul Semendinger, Principal, Hawes Elementary School
- Greg Wu, Assistant Principal, Benjamin Franklin Middle School
- Allan Martin, Facilities and Custodial Manager
- Robert Bielaszewski, General Manager, Aramark
- Danielle Wood, Supervisor of Special Education

Technology

- Serhiy Morhun, Manager of Information Technology
- Dr. Lorna Oates-Santos, Principal, Somerville Elementary School
- Chris McCullough, Supervisor of Fine and Applied Arts
- Greg McDonald, Supervisor of Mathematics and Computer Science
- Tara Taylor, Supervisor of Science
- IT Department Staff

Governance

- Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Schools
- Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Ojetta Townes, Manager of Human Resources
- Dr. Thomas Gorman, Principal, Ridgewood High School
- Shauna Stovell, Assistant Principal Benjamin Franklin Middle School
- Dr. Jean Schoenlank, Principal, Ridge Elementary School

Wellness

- Basil Pizzuto, Assistant Principal, Ridgewood High School
- Lauren DePinto, District Coordinator School-Based Mental Health Services
- Dr. Katie Kashmanian, Principal, George Washington Middle School
- Dan Kilday, Supervisor of Wellness
- Caroline Hoffman, Principal, Willard Elementary School
- Jeff Nyhuis, Assistant Principal, Ridgewood High School
- Janel Nese, Supervisor of Special Education
- Dr. Wayne Yankus, School Physician
- Colleen Manke, School Nurse/Health Educator