



RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(201) 670-2700 x10530
dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

September 4, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

No matter how much you plan and prepare for something, there is always a bit of uncertainty about how things will go. When developing the reopening plan, prepping the buildings, and sharing new procedures and protocols with our families and staff, we deliberately considered every possible scenario and developed contingencies for each, knowing that, in this uncharted territory, we would need to be flexible and creative. I visited each building on both opening days and was very pleased with what I saw, as well as with the feedback I received from the principals, teachers and parents. Together, we did it!

I would like to thank all of our families for reviewing the building procedures, new schedules, welcome letters and more. Students arrived at their assigned entrance wearing masks and following social distancing. They were ready and excited, and so were we. Your preparation helped make our opening week a success. Please remember to complete the symptom checking questionnaire at home every day your child attends school. I would also like to thank the entire staff for efficiently managing everything from temperature checking through dismissal. While there were some minor glitches, the overwhelming response has been positive. Teachers welcomed the students, made them feel at home after a long time away from the normalcy of school, and started the new year full of hope.

During Phase 1 of the reopening plan, I plan to send a general update to the school community every two weeks. Other important information will be communicated, as necessary. As we move forward over the next several weeks, we will be evaluating the progress of Phase 1 and closely monitoring the health data for our area. I would like to remind you that our School Based Mental Health Team is available, and counselors are connecting with students. Also, a great way to stay informed and involved is to participate in your Home and School Association. These groups hold regular meetings with the principal of each building, work on fundraising opportunities, coordinate special events and more. Lastly, it is extremely important to continue to wear masks, practice social distancing and wash or sanitize hands regularly, both in and out of school. We, as a community, are responsible for keeping in-person learning going.

I hope you enjoy the holiday weekend. Stay safe, and we will see you again next week!

Sincerely,

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

C Board of Education

