



BETHEL PARK

S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

November 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students who Receive Special Education Services,

We hope that you and your family are doing well during these uncertain times and find some time to rest and rejuvenate so that you can fully enjoy the upcoming holidays. With the holiday season fast approaching, experts are warning that the positivity rates of Covid-19, which are already the highest we have seen since the start of the pandemic, are very likely to increase to levels few could have imagined as recently as the start of this school year.

On Monday, Allegheny County was designated as being in the “Substantial” phase by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), which means that the countywide percent positivity rate has surpassed 10% for a full week’s period of time the first time since the PDE began reporting statewide testing in the spring.

To help protect the health and safety of the District’s students and staff, the Bethel Park School District will be transitioning temporarily to a full-time remote instructional model for all District students beginning on Monday, Nov. 23. Students are tentatively scheduled to return on Tuesday, Dec. 8, depending on the available data as well as the guidance the School District receives from local and state officials.

That means that until Dec. 8, no Bethel Park students, including those who receive special education services, will be receiving in-person instruction. We maintain our commitment to offering all supports necessary for the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities. The District will continue to transport students who are attending out-of-District placements that have decided to remain open for in-person instruction.

The District is committed to reviewing and returning students as soon as safely possible. Until that time, remote learning services will be provided synchronously through live instruction four days per week, with an asynchronous delivery on Friday.

Bethel Park School District follows the mandated Covid Compensatory Services (CCS) process. We have not yet finalized the current CCS data collection regarding the determination of eligibility for services. Once that process is complete, your case manager will share with you the data and discuss the next steps and available compensatory services for which your child may qualify.



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We appreciate the patience, understanding and flexibility that our entire learning community has consistently demonstrated throughout this difficult time and we remain committed to continuing to deliver the same quality of education in Bethel Park School District that our families have come to expect regardless of the model in which it is delivered. Should you have any questions about your child's individual program, please contact their assigned IEP case manager or our Special Education Department at (412) 854-8410.

Sincerely,

Joseph C Dimperio, Ph.D.
Acting Superintendent, Bethel Park School District