

# Roxbury Township Public Schools

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Dear Roxbury Families:

If you've attended our Board of Education meetings or viewed FaceBook posts, this announcement is no surprise to you. It has been my intention from the beginning to be transparent. I've continued to monitor the health of the district, have frequent conversations with our local health officials and district nurses, collaborate with administration, take into consideration stakeholder's various opinions and rationale, protect the health of our students and staff, and update REA and BOE leadership. Therefore, it's no surprise that the goal from the beginning has been to return our students and staff to a typical school day. That goal will be realized on May 3rd so long as our health trends continue in the right direction.

Recent trends have illustrated a decrease of positive Covid-19 cases. Our local health officials report significantly decreased Covid-19 cases in Roxbury. Cases reported in our schools have also markedly dropped in number. Both the case rate and percent positivity rate as reported in the Covid-19 Activity level Index by the Department of Health have decreased. The availability of the vaccine continues to increase, and while I do not have a percentage of vaccinated staff, I know for certain that many individuals are vaccinated.

In addition, we have been successful this year in returning to 100% capacity for five days a week in every building. Moreover, we can ensure 6 feet social distancing in lunchrooms in all schools. We have prepared for outdoor seating at both the high school and middle school. We continue to provide enhanced cleaning and air purifiers where necessary, to wear masks, and to ensure the rSchoolToday app is enforced. In short, the precautions we have taken have supported the health of our students and staff.

Regarding our staff, I feel compelled to acknowledge them. I have never been prouder of their efforts, of their desire to provide solid instruction for our students, of their support for our students' physical and social, emotional health, of their partnership with administration, families, and each other. It's through the efforts and fearlessness of all staff members that we have been able to move forward with caution and determination.

Lastly, while many high schoolers are enjoying the benefits of a four-hour school day, it is important for us to return to the typical school day as we look towards the future and strive for a "normal" school year beginning in September. We are prepared for full days. We have mapped out our lunchrooms, ordered tents to provide outdoor dining at EMS and RHS, and have designed updated schedules and transportation.

**Therefore, we will return to full days on Monday, May 3rd for the entire district. Parents who would like to change their child's learning platform from virtual to in-person or vice versa should communicate their decision through the Genesis Parent Portal by noon, April 27th. ONLY if you are changing your child's learning platform, should you complete the form available here.**

To ensure that all graduating seniors can walk in graduation, **all seniors** will be virtual from Monday June 14th until Tuesday, June 22nd. Senior Prom will occur on Wednesday, June 23rd and Graduation will take place on Thursday, June 24th. The eighth grade Step Up Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, June 22nd at 6:00pm. Details for all end of the year ceremonies will be communicated to families by the building principals.

I invite you to attend the upcoming Board of Education meetings as we celebrate **Roxbury Resilience** in our school district. Celebrations and acknowledgements are scheduled to take place as follows:

**April 26th Meeting .... Buildings & Grounds, Food Service, Security, Transportation**

**May 10th Meeting .... Nurses, Secretaries, Technology**

**June 7th Meeting .... Coaches, Counselors, CSTs, Lunch aides, Paras, Teachers  
(and Retirees!) and Therapists**

**June 21st Meeting .... Administrators, BOE, Parents/Community**

The upcoming months will be filled with celebrations and acknowledgements because we've been in a battle filled with unknowns and uncertainty, and we've successfully navigated it because we've done it together. A battle of any kind leaves scars that require healing, but it also provides an opportunity to illustrate our character, our determination, and our support for each other.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in the upcoming months as we continue our final months of the 2020-2021 school year. Please continue to keep up your vigilance, staying home when feeling unwell, washing hands, wearing masks, so that we can successfully complete this year. And, again, please join us as we move into our months of celebrations.

Yours in Education,



Loretta L. Radulic  
Superintendent of Schools