



Nutley Public Schools

315 Franklin Ave.
Nutley, NJ 07110

Dr. Julie Glazer, Superintendent
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December 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

As I reflect on this past year and everything that we have endured during the Coronavirus global pandemic, I remain deeply moved by the sacrifices each of our families and staff has made. Since March, you've learned to adapt to a whole new way of life. You've balanced work and home life in a way we never could have imagined before. I want to extend my gratitude to our families and our staff who have supported our students as we redefined the way we educate, despite a steep curve as we pivoted to all virtual learning, hybrid instruction, and back again. I know first-hand how you have taken on additional roles at home, while also caring for our children and other family members. Everyone is doing the best possible during some of the most difficult times. None of us would be successful without each other. I thank you for partnering with us to support learning, and for your patience as we have shaped and made adjustments to our learning models this year.

I'm not sure there are words strong enough to express my appreciation for your inner strength, your resilience, grit, teamwork, and your continuous positivity, especially during these times of constant unpredictability and change. We all play an important part in making each day better and brighter for our students and our school district. I've shared emotions with you from anger, to fear, to humility, to determination and hope for the future. But together we have persevered for our children, and that's what this is all about -- our students.

As we acknowledge the hard work, creativity, and adaptability of all the stakeholders that saw us through the unique circumstances of the past year, we also take this opportunity to embrace what is yet to come. I'm looking forward to our continued collaboration, new successes, and a hopeful path forward in the new year. I hope that the holidays are safe, happy, and peaceful with opportunities for everyone to relax, rejuvenate, and connect with family and friends. Even if some of those connections are virtual this year, I know that you will find creative ways to spend time and engage meaningfully with others.

As a reminder, the winter break runs from December 23 through January 3. Students will return to virtual instruction on Monday, January 4, 2021. We are all hoping for a return to in-person instruction as soon as health and safety guidelines allow. The reopening of schools for in-person instruction requires a broad community commitment to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. Such commitment involves social distancing, wearing masks, cleaning and disinfection, and meticulous hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing. To resume in-person operations, we must consider how best to structure educational services to minimize risk to staff and students. To that end we will continue the electronic daily screening form beginning again on January 4. The following are a few reminders while we are apart:

- If you have a rapid test, remain in quarantine until the second test results come back. Some rapid tests, if done too early may result in false negatives.
- Please wait for the results of your test, no matter how many days it takes, before you resume activities in the community.
- If you are made aware that you were exposed to COVID-19, please begin to quarantine as soon as possible.

- The State of New Jersey website includes a symptom checker and testing sites: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>
- Contact the Nutley Health Department, (or your local health department if you do not reside in Nutley) to advise them if you have traveled outside New Jersey (other than essential travel) and/or if you have been in contact with a person diagnosed with COVID- 19 in past 2 weeks, as soon as possible. They will confirm the isolation and/or quarantine/self-monitoring time frame. This information will also help track the number of cases in our town while hindering the spread of the virus.
- Please monitor your children when they are with other children and adults. They should be social distancing and wearing face masks. Also, in your homes, you should not have groups larger than 10, based on current guidelines, in a closed environment for prolonged periods of time.

Additionally, we expect more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine to be shared with districts in the coming weeks. We will also share what details become available from the state and county with you.

As I look forward optimistically to 2021, I'm confident that we will continue the amazing work taking place in the Nutley Public Schools. I want to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season! May the new year bring you and those closest to you the brightest of days, good health, happiness, and prosperity. I couldn't imagine being on this journey with anyone other than the amazing and dedicated staff, students and families in Nutley. I'm so fortunate to be part of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Glazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Julie Glazer