



September 29, 2021

Dear Families,

As we move into October and our second month of school, I want to thank you for entrusting your child's learning experience to our dedicated team of teachers and staff. In addition to COVID-19, we are overcoming many challenges related to the shortage of bus drivers, support staff, and substitute teachers. These shortages have improved in recent weeks, but we appreciate all of your flexibility, understanding, and suggestions. Please click [here](#) if you may have an interest in applying for open positions within the school district.

Our [COVID-19 dashboard](#) is updated every Friday and contains the total number of cases in our district, along with information about contact tracing as directed by the [Chester County Health Department](#). As of September 24, Chester County's transmission level is currently "High" with incidents per 100,000 at 120.95. and a positivity rate of 6.23%.

We are finding that our layered mitigation strategies have been effective during the first month of school in helping us achieve our goal of maintaining in-person instruction and limiting the number of close contact quarantines. Nationally, the CDC has reported that according to its data, schools without mask requirements are seeing up to four times as many COVID-19 outbreaks as those that require masks.

I have had the great pleasure this first month of school to visit many classrooms across the district. The excitement, the joy and the energy amongst our students and staff is simply inspiring. As we continue to work together as a school district community, I am hopeful that we will see an even greater sense of normalcy as the school year progresses. Thank you again for all your support of our students, teachers, and the West Chester community.

I wish everyone the very best this fall season.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Sokolowski  
Superintendent