

Update Dec 20th

December 20, 2021

Dear Glen Ridge School Community,

As we head into our last week before our December break, I want to share several school updates and wish everyone a restful and peaceful vacation. This school year has had its challenges, but I am pleased that through the efforts of our dedicated school staff we have provided our students with in-person learning and have kept most of the schools' co-curricular programs up and running. We have asked our teachers not to assign work over the break so our students can take a break from academics and enjoy their time with their families.

Pandemic

The District and the State ([NJ CALI Report](#)) have experienced an increase in Covid-19 cases over the past few weeks, but our numbers have still remained relatively low. As a reminder, school districts throughout the State are required to provide in-person instruction. Parents do not have the option to choose a virtual experience for their children. In order for a school to go virtual, outbreak conditions must be present. None of our schools are currently experiencing outbreak conditions.

We have had twelve (12) Covid cases throughout the district over the last two weeks. A number of those cases involved individuals who were already quarantined because of close contact with family members. We are reviewing the District's wellness protocols and closely monitoring conditions. The school community will be notified of any changes to school protocols relating to the increased cases within our region.

The NJDOH quarantine guidelines were recently updated [NJDOH Guidelines](#). The most significant change in the update is the close-contact guidance. Close-contact for unvaccinated individuals results in ten (10) days in quarantine, with the possibility of returning on the eighth day if the individual submits a negative test result. This rule applies to all risk levels.

The District is continuing to collect proof of student vaccination. A third notice will be sent out this week. We appreciate families sharing this information.

School Calendar

The board has approved an adjustment made on the 2022-2023 school calendar. The original calendar listed November 3-4 as the NJEA Teacher Convention. The correct dates of the convention are November 10-11. The calendar was updated on the website.

School Safety

The Michigan school shooting and the recent national threat on social media have refocused attention on school security. Although some of our safety protocols were tweaked because of pandemic protocols, our District has continued to address school safety over the past two years. The safety of our students and staff always takes priority.

Security cameras have been upgraded in each school building, with additional cameras added. New emergency notification systems were also installed in each building. Our staff receives regular security training throughout the school year beyond the mandatory two emergency drills held each month. This past Wednesday, the District had a representative from the Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning (OSPEP) make a presentation on school safety to our new staff members. The administration also meets periodically with the Glen Ridge Police Department to review school security. Additional Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) were added to the buildings, and older AED's were replaced with new models. Several pandemic-related protocols, such as limiting the number of visitors in the buildings during school hours and hiring extra school counselors to address social and emotional learning among our students, have also been helpful in our efforts to maintain safe buildings.

School safety starts at home and is most effective when parents and schools work collaboratively. We ask that parents keep the schools informed if they notice changes in their children's behavior, or if other concerns are raised. The District has partnered with Peace at Home, Peace at Home, to provide parents with additional resources.

During this past summer, the Glen Ridge Police Department hosted Be Smart at National Night Out. This organization raises awareness about safe gun storage. The Be Smart website provides a wealth of information, Be Smart. OSPEP has also released a public service announcement around the theme, "See Something Say Something" that parents can view with their children.



January

3: Schools Reopen

5: BOE Meeting (Re-organization) 7:00 meeting

13: RAS Winter Chorus & Band Concert

14: GRHS End of Marking Period 2

17: School Closed, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

20: GRHS Winter Concert

I want to thank everyone for their ongoing support of our students and wish you all a healthy and happy new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Pullin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".