

UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

856-455-2267

WWW.UDTS.ORG

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1385 HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY 08302

Dr. Peter Koza
Superintendent of Schools

P: 856-455-2267 x3201 F: 856-453-7077

kozap@udts.org

Mrs. Cherie Bratty

Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary

P: 856-455-2267 x2202 F: 856-455-0419

brattvc@udts.org

December 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians in our Upper Deerfield Community:

As we all know, this current period of time has presented many challenges and continues to do so. Information is presented each day that is ever-changing and decision making becomes even more difficult. With our governor deputing the decisions to each school district, our goal was to return to in-person instruction on January 4, 2021. However, with the number of COVID 19 cases on the rise in Cumberland County and our region and state as a whole, coupled with the revisions respective to contact tracing and quarantining for being deemed close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID 19, there has been an increase in the impact on our schools and community. With the Christmas/Holiday Season upon us, a rise in cases is expected which has heightened the concerns of the spreading of the virus that could further disrupt the educational environment of our on-site programs.

After some careful reflection, deliberation, consultation, and review of information, the difficult decision was made to extend our period of remote instruction through Friday, January 8th. We plan to resume in-person instruction on January 11th. This is a change from the original plan of returning on January 4th, but the guidance and information on what may be the safest procedure would be to push back a week and resume on-site on Monday, January 11th. As with any decision, it is imperative we continue to keep the health and well-being of our students, families, and staff at the forefront during this unprecedented and challenging time.

We certainly recognize the burden and challenges that this change may present as we move into the new year, but it cannot be stressed enough that our priority remains on attending to the health and safety of the entire school community at this time. These efforts will continue as we do our best to adhere to all health and safety practices recommended by our County Health Department and CDC.

For those who may need a letter for their employer, we will place a letter on the website as we have done in the past. In addition, I also would like to invite you to go to our website to see the link for Mr. Wilchensky reading 'Twas The Night Before Christmas and the message of encouragement from former NFL and Eagle's quarterback Ron Jaworski. These are two items to provide some relief and hope during this pandemic.

While it seems redundant, I will still say remain safe and practice all safety habits as outlined by the CDC and County Health Department. We must remain vigilant and while staying focused and hopeful that we will prevail as we navigate this trail together.

I thank all of you again for your support, understanding, and doing your part in keeping your children attentive to their education. We have made it this far with this new model and have adapted well and will continue to do so. This is a testament to our entire school and community coming together to support each other while remaining as safe as we can during these unprecedented times.

With this Christmas/Holiday Season that brings renewed hope each year, my hope is all may stay safe, be responsible, and have a Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Koza Ed.D.

Peter L. Koza, Ed.D., Superintendent