



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Trumbull Public Schools Community,

I am writing today to give you two important updates. The first item will be on the topic of snow and the second on our continued work around reopening schools.

Snow Days in 2020-2021

I wanted to let everyone know how we will handle snow days this year. I believe that calling off school completely for a “snow” day is most appropriate at this time. A “snow” day allows students and staff a chance to simply take a break. Given the challenges that we are all facing at this time, these breaks often come as a welcome treat. Our last day of school is currently, Monday, June 14. Therefore, I believe that we can “afford” up to FOUR snow days before we change tactics. If we use all four snow days then the last day of school would be Friday, June 18. Once we have used four snow days, I will likely begin using remote learning days instead. I would make this change because many of our school buildings become very hot as we get into late June. The option to use remote learning may only apply to the 2020-2021 school year because we have guaranteed that every student has a device. We may not be able to guarantee this access in the future so we will take advantage of the situation while we can.

For all weather-related events, I will do my best to make a decision by 5:30 am. I will then send an email, text, and phone blast letting parents and staff know the decision. We will also inform all traditional news outlets as well. If I have enough information to make a decision the night before, I will.

Remote learning, Holiday Break, and COVID

The Trumbull Public Schools will transition to remote learning for all students beginning Monday, December 21. Our teachers, staff and students have done an amazing job these past two weeks returning to in-person learning but with COVID numbers increasing, staff absences on the rise, and winter break on our doorstep, our team believes it’s the best decision at this time.

In addition, we plan to return to our current learning model on Monday, January 11. We waited a week to return after the Thanksgiving Break and it may have helped reduce the number of positive cases in our buildings. Our return to the current model on January 11 will be dependent upon our review of the number of cases per 100,000 in Trumbull and the infection rate at that time. Our building principals will be reaching out to a small number of students to invite them to return to in-person learning beginning on Tuesday, January 5. All other students will remain in remote learning from January 4 – January 8.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.