



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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March 24, 2021

Dear Trumbull Community,

The air is warming and I am excited to come out of my cocoon and get outside on a more consistent basis. The lawn is calling and there are trees to be pruned. I am also excited to see that the vaccine process in Connecticut has been ramped up further, giving us all a chance to reach herd immunity sooner. I am happy to say that I am now two weeks beyond receiving my Johnson and Johnson shot and many of our staff are in a similar situation. Below are some updates. If you have questions for me regarding any of these topics, please email me at msemmel@trumbullps.org. I will continue to do my best to return emails but, if I missed you please don't be afraid to give me a nudge. If your questions are more building-based, please reach out to your building principal.

TPS Planning for 2021-2022

As we continue our work to open up our schools, we also need to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. As part of our data collection process, we have been conducting focus groups with our staff. These focus groups are providing us great insight but they don't allow us to hear from everyone. Therefore, we are using an electronic platform called ThoughtExchange to tap into everybody's ideas. You should have received an email from Dr. Iwanicki and me inviting you to participate. The opportunity for you to share your thoughts and rate (with stars) the thoughts of others is open until Monday, April 5. We plan on using all the data we receive to inform our planning for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. The link to ThoughtExchange is <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/125944552>

Reopening our Schools

We have decided that our **Middle School students will return on Monday, March 29**. This will mean that all students will either be with us full-time **or** a remote learner. Parents of middle school students have worked directly with their schools to identify their learning model. We are asking that you stay with that model, but the middle school principals will share a schedule regarding when you could possibly switch from one learning model to another.

Today was our first in-person half day for all elementary students and our A-day students at the middle and high school (Cohort 1). We are very excited to be back to almost full capacity at our elementary and middle school levels.

For the high school, we are targeting April 26th as the latest date for a return fully to high school.

We could return sooner but we want to make sure that we have enough time to review the survey data and see how it impacts our classroom density. If you are a parent of a high school student, you will continue to receive information from Mr. Guarino.

Traffic at Elementary Schools

One of our challenges this year has been traffic at some of our elementary schools. As a parent myself, I appreciate that so many parents want to drive their children to and from school each day.

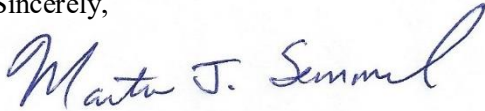
However, I would ask you for the following. First, with the weather turning nicer, please use our bus system. With everyone wearing masks and the windows open to the fresh air, it does not appear that our bus rides have resulted in the transmission of COVID. Second, if you continue to drive your child, please adhere to all your principal's requests around pick-up and drop-off. We have found that staggered arrival times, depending on alphabet or grade level, has helped reduce some of the congestion. I appreciate your assistance!

Litter on Playgrounds

Finally, we have noticed that some of our playgrounds are seeing more litter. Our custodians really need to focus on their work inside their buildings. They do attend to the outside grounds but any help you can provide to keep our playgrounds clean after school would be much appreciated. If we all take out more than we bring in we should be in great shape.

I hope you all have a terrific week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin J. Semmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Martin J. Semmel, Ed.D.
Superintendent