



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Office of the Superintendent

Michael LaSusa

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November 18, 2021

Dear Parent,

Happy (almost) Thanksgiving! I would like to thank you again for all of your assistance and effort in making this school year so successful thus far. This fall has by and large been stable and normal, with full days of school, a full complement of extracurricular and special events, a full and uninterrupted fall athletic season that was one of the best in memory, and a total daily attendance rate above 95% at each of our schools. I hope that this coming Thanksgiving week is the culmination of a season of connection and enjoyment for you and your family.

Here are a few points of note at present:

- Our high school fall drama, *Sense and Sensibility*, will take place tomorrow and Saturday evenings at Chatham High School. We hope that you consider attending; you may purchase [tickets here](#).
- We have again arranged for voluntary COVID testing for all students every Friday between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm at CMS. This testing is provided through the NJDOH and is free of charge for any parent interested. We have seen an increase in our number of cases over the past two weeks, including several breakthrough cases. If you are interested in having your child tested, the consent form from the company is attached to this message.
- On December 15, our Performing Arts Department is trying something new. Between 5:30 and 6:30 that evening, a number of our ensemble groups--Nothing but Treble, Woodwind and Brass ensembles, Chacafellas--will be positioned at locations on and around Main St. to perform for passers by and shoppers. The locations will include the corner of Elmwood and Main, the Gazebo, Memorial Park near Scoops, and the storefront near the Purple Aardvark. Between 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm, the Lafayette 4th and 5th grade choirs will take the stage at the Gazebo, and the evening will conclude with more CHS ensemble performances near Scoops between 8:00 pm and 8:30 pm. We hope that you come by to celebrate in some local cheer!

Tomorrow is the 54th day of school. We are generally very pleased with how our students are progressing and the resilience they have shown over the past two years. Our points of concern right now primarily have to do with behavioral/executive functioning kinds of expectations (waiting for one's turn, handling transitions, managing impulses) and mental health issues. We are working on all of the above and already

see progress and improvement from the beginning of the year. Still, this is a marathon and we know that plenty more work lies ahead, both from a social-emotional standpoint and an academic perspective. Your children all deserve a pat on the back this holiday for getting back into the full groove of school and getting on solid footing during the first few months. As we enter the middle third of the school year, we look forward to parent-teacher conferences, continuing to provide academic and other supports to students in order to support their ongoing progress, and additional strides toward a fully normal school year.

I wish you a warm holiday season!

Sincerely,

Michael LaSusa

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