



## **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS**

### **Office of the Superintendent**

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Dear Parent and Staff Member,

All Chatham schools will be closed tomorrow due to the forecasted snow event. Similar to earlier this week, I would normally call a delay tonight and wait until the morning to determine if we should close. However, we have had additional staff test positive in the past couple of days, including members of our custodial and maintenance crews, who are the ones that need to be on the road and in by 4:00 or 5:00 am in order to have the snow cleared and walkways salted by about 8:30 am if we are delayed. Given the timing of the storm and our current staffing constraints, I think it is better to make the decision tonight.

After School activities at Chatham High School will take place as planned, as per the communication from the athletic department or other staff.

We will confirm by tomorrow if Covid testing will be available for students at 3:00 pm at CMS. We are continuing to work toward a test-to-stay model to reduce the number of quarantine and isolation days for students, and I will be in touch about that as soon as we finalize our program. As a first step in this process, after-school testing at CMS will be expanded next week to two days, Wednesday and Friday, beginning at 3:00 pm in the auditorium foyer. Given the surge in testing demand, our vendor will require that students be pre-registered by their parents two days in advance of testing. I will send more information out about this on Monday.

Next week we will continue to allow parents the option of picking up their child for lunch. We will also continue to run the livestream from classrooms for students whose parents do not feel comfortable sending them to school. However, beginning on January 18, we will discontinue the lunch pick-up and also begin to count absences from school against the thresholds in our policies.

We are hopeful that our case counts have settled down after the holiday, as they appear to have leveled off over the past couple of days (see table below). In addition, our in-person attendance rate has gradually ticked up over the course of this week.

In-Person Attendance Rates			
Monday, 1/3	Tuesday, 1/4	Wednesday, 1/5	Thursday, 1/6
76.8%	80.4%	81.6%	82.2%

Number of Cases Reported by School							
Date	CHS	CMS	LAF	MAS	SBS	WAS	TOTAL
12/15	17	3	0	0	1	0	<b>21</b>
12/16	29	0	0	0	0	0	<b>29</b>
12/17	27	3	1	0	2	2	<b>35</b>
12/20 (Monday)	52	6	5	3	3	1	<b>70</b>
12/21	16	7	1	4	0	0	<b>28</b>
12/22	13	3	2	0	1	2	<b>21</b>
12/23	8	9	1	1	1	0	<b>20</b>
1/3 (Monday)	53	65	33	23	18	15	<b>207</b>
1/4	16	11	4	0	7	1	<b>39</b>
1/5	10	3	5	0	0	3	<b>21</b>
1/6	8	8	0	1	3	0	<b>20</b>

This is our first snow day this year and we will have three remaining. I hope that your kids get outside a little bit tomorrow and that you enjoy the weekend.

Thank you