



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Parents and Staff Members,

Happy Spring! I write to update you on several matters as we enter the home stretch of the school year.

1. For several years now, our Board of Education and district administration have researched and discussed the issues surrounding the daily start-times of our schools. Specifically, we have analyzed the impact that an early start to the school day has on adolescent high schoolers. As a result of these discussions and presentations, and an evaluation of the evidence regarding the lack of sleep in our students and the impact that has on their emotional, academic, and physical well-being, we will institute new daily schedules at all of our schools for the 2022/2023 school year. The school days will be:
 - PK - 3 Schools: 8:55 am - 3:25 pm
 - Lafayette: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
 - CMS: 7:55 am - 2:30 pm
 - CHS: 8:20 am - 3:00 pm

You may visit this [page of our website](#) for additional information, including presentations regarding the medical aspects of sleep and teenagers, resources to help develop better sleeping habits in children, and more. We will continue to update this page as we accumulate other resources and relevant information. For those families interested in before or after care for their children, the [Work-Family Connection](#) remains the district partner for this service. We recognize that a change to the daily routine of school is challenging and will require significant adjustments for families. However, we believe these changes will benefit our students and lead to an array of positive outcomes relative to their learning and well-being.

2. We have had a mild winter and we have unused snow days. All schools except Milton have three snow days remaining, while Milton has two days due to a power outage earlier this month. The district collective bargaining agreement requires the snow days to be returned/expended prior

to the end of the year. Therefore, as indicated on the current district calendar, school will be canceled on **Thursday and Friday, May 26 and 27**, before Memorial Day weekend. School will also be canceled at all schools EXCEPT Milton on **Friday, April 8**, which is the day before spring break and two weeks from tomorrow. Milton will have school on that day, but there will be an early dismissal.

3. We continue to adjust to updates and new guidance regarding Covid. I am advising you of two changes to our current protocols:
 - The CDC no longer recommends contact tracing and case investigation for school settings. However, the CDC does recommend general notifications regarding cases. I have discussed this change with our local health department. Beginning with the first week of April, the district will no longer attempt to identify and notify close contacts for Covid cases reported to the district. Instead, each school will communicate the total number of cases reported to that school on a weekly basis. We will also move to weekly updating of our district [Covid Dashboard](#).
 - We will now permit unvaccinated volunteers into our schools if they are able to provide the school with a negative Covid test taken within the week before they volunteer. This is consistent with how we are required to manage unvaccinated staff members. Home tests will NOT be accepted for this purpose. An unvaccinated parent who wishes to volunteer in one of our schools may provide proof of a negative test with documentation from a medical provider or may utilize our testing vendor located at CMS every Tuesday after school. The documentation should be provided to the school security staff at the school.
4. Subscription busing applications for the 2022/2023 school year are now open. If you are interested in applying for subscription transportation, please [complete this form](#).
5. The Board of Education adopted the preliminary 2022/2023 budget on Monday night. The presentation of the budget may be [viewed here](#). Also on Monday night, the Board accepted the resignation of multiple staff members for the purpose or retirement or for personal reasons. Over the course of the next month, we will work to finalize our budget and also address all staffing vacancies so that we are fully staffed for next school year. Please be patient as we work through these processes.
6. Our high school musical, *Anastasia*, is taking place over the next three evenings. One year ago, our production took place outdoors in the circle between LAF and CHS, two years ago we were in lockdown mode, and knock wood this weekend we will have a packed house in our Performing Arts Center. If you need a break from March Madness, please consider coming out. Tickets may be [purchased here](#).

Thank you as always, and break-a-leg wishes to our cast and crew (and the St. Peter's Peacocks, of course)!

Sincerely,

Michael LaSusa