December 22, 2021

Dear Sayville Schools Community,

We want to start out by thanking each and every member of the Sayville Schools Community for your patience and support. To our faculty and staff: your perseverance and commitment to our students is appreciated more than words can say. Thank you also to our families and community for your cooperation as we get through these difficult times.

After two years we are still faced with numerous challenges brought on by the pandemic. We no longer use the word unprecedented as adapting to the conditions and requirements that have been placed on our schools has become almost routine. Please know that each time we visit a school in Sayville we see students who are happy, healthy, and meaningfully engaged in their education. This is true from our youngest pre-K students through to our high school seniors. The tremendous resilience shown by our students is something we can all take pride in.

While our schools are experiencing an increase in the COVID positivity rate, the Department of Health has provided us with guidelines and requirements that permit the District to manage and remain safely open. Special thanks to our school nurses and building principals for their outstanding efforts in this regard.

We will be watching the COVID numbers closely as we go into the winter recess. While the District has no plans to switch to remote instruction at this time, we want to provide you with a brief update concerning the District’s plans. We anticipate a normal return to school on January 3, 2022; however, we will be ready to adjust our plans should the need arise. If COVID numbers are significantly higher in a particular classroom, we may need to shift that classroom to remote instruction. The District’s goal is to keep our buildings open. In addition, we will closely monitor staff cases and quarantines as shortages in this area may necessitate a shift to remote instruction for certain programs.

In our effort to monitor the COVID numbers over the vacation we have established the following link to report positive COVID cases for students: https://forms.gle/8GSVpY3ikMxZVDyj6. Please use this link to report if your child tests positive for COVID during the vacation. Updates concerning the District’s January plans will be posted on the District webpage during the week of December 27.

To each of you who celebrate the Christmas season, we wish you a Happy Christmas. To our entire Sayville Schools Community: we wish you a very Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Verdone,
President, Board of Education

Dr. John Stimmel,
Superintendent of Schools