



Building Partnerships for Tomorrow

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October 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Family Members:

I am writing to share a few updates and reminders as we prepare for the much-anticipated return to hybrid learning in our Special Education schools and programs on Monday, October 19, 2020.

- Our Administrators and Transportation Department have been working closely with districts to coordinate student bus routes. Despite their best efforts, it can be anticipated that minor delays or scheduling issues may occur during opening days. Parents are advised to inform their child's Case Manager of transportation-related concerns to ensure timely resolution.
- In an effort to ensure that all students have access to nutritious meals, Maschio's Food Services will offer free breakfast and lunch to all UCESC students, regardless of income eligibility status, during in-person learning days for the duration of the 2020-21 school year. Students will also receive "grab and go" meals for the following week of remote learning every Friday afternoon. Parents can expect to receive menus next week and should contact their child's school only if they wish to opt-out of daily breakfast and/or lunch service for their child.
- While on fulltime remote learning, Hillcrest Academy students can also obtain "grab and go" breakfasts and lunches from any Elizabeth Public School every Wednesday and Friday from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. All meals will be provided at no-cost regardless of income eligibility status.
- Governor Murphy announced that public school districts must be closed for in-person learning on Election Day. As a result of this requirement, UCESC schools will transition to a full day of remote learning for all students on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Your child's school will send home reminder notices and schedules towards the end of this month.
- Trane Technologies completed the air quality assessment in our schools on October 5-9, 2020. We are awaiting the report from the contractor and I look forward to sharing results along with any recommendations for enhancement of building HVAC systems with you very soon.
- Community wellness is a shared responsibility. We will continue to prioritize health and safety as we move forward to the next phase of our reopening plan. Likewise, we appreciate your cooperation in immediately notifying your Principal or School Nurse in the event of potential COVID-19 exposures outside of school and erring on the side of caution by keeping your child home when he or she is not feeling well.

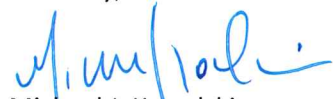
We are extremely excited for students to return to classrooms. Our goal over the upcoming weeks will be to rebuild relationships and provide warm, nurturing, and supportive environments for your child.

I hope that you find a moment to thank your administrators, teachers, and support staff for working so hard to navigate every-changing circumstances to reopen schools safely and effectively.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school or my office at (908) 233-9317 x 262 should you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding your child's education.

Wishing everyone a healthy and restful weekend.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Kowalski
Acting Superintendent