

# ARLINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Lorenzo Licopoli, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Arlington Families,

### Board announces next Superintendent of Schools

On Thursday night the Board of Education appointed Dr. Dave Moyer as Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2021. While a [separate announcement](#) has been sent to families and staff, I ask you to please welcome Dave Moyer to our community. I am looking forward to working with Dr. Moyer as we frame a transition plan for him.

### COVID-19 Update

While we have not been formally advised by New York State, it is our understanding that the State's micro-clustering program has been put on hold. We have not been officially advised whether a county infection rate of 9% will determine if schools need to be fully remote until self-testing guidelines are met. Nevertheless, we are proactively preparing and planning for the State's self-testing program. In addition, now that all educators are eligible to be vaccinated, we are planning to implement a vaccination registration program for all district staff. We are also investigating the possibility of the district being a dispensary site for the vaccine.

Please note that the "Returning to School After Illness" and the "District Procedures if a Student/Employee Test Positive for COVID-19" sections of the [Family Health and Safety Guide](#) have been updated based on new guidance from the CDC.

### School Schedule for the Week of January 19

#### \*\*Elementary Schools:

- Maroon Cohort will meet in person on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Gray Cohort will meet in person on Thursday and Friday
- Remote only students will follow their normal Wednesday schedule

#### Middle Schools:

- Blue Cohort will meet in person on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Maroon Cohort will meet in person on Thursday and Friday

#### High School:

- Blue Cohort will meet in person on Tuesday
- All cohorts remote on Wednesday
- Maroon Cohort will meet in person on Thursday
- Gray Cohort will meet in person on Friday

### COVID-19 Notification

Today we were notified that five students have tested positive for COVID-19: three Arlington High School students, one West Road Intermediate student, and one Vail Farm Elementary School student. In accordance with Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, Arlington was not required to conduct contact tracing for any of these students.

In addition, we were notified that two staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. One staff member is a district employee who is not associated with a school building. Contact tracing was required for this staff person and has been completed. If you have not received a notification, you are not considered a close contact.

Late this afternoon we were notified that a Titusville Intermediate School staff person tested positive for COVID-19. Arlington is required to conduct contact tracing for this staff member. Contact tracing is currently underway. If you do not receive a notification, you are not considered a close contact.

**\*\*Due to the number of faculty and staff who will be required to quarantine, Titusville will be fully remote from Tuesday, January 19 through Friday, January 22.**

### **Board of Education Meetings**

On behalf of the Arlington Board of Education, we were pleased that we were able to successfully implement public comment in a remote environment. It was great to hear voices from our community. We encourage your participation. We will post the link for public comment for the Tuesday, January 26 meeting next Friday. This past Tuesday, the Board heard presentations on the 2021/22 Educational Plan and Budget and the Elementary Program, and received a COVID-19 update. You can find these presentations on the [Board of Education page on the District website](#).

### **In closing**

Last weekend I sent a letter to our community following the events at the U.S. Capitol. My intent was to encourage us to work together to teach our children about the ideals laid out in our Constitution and to unite under shared values of kindness and respect. I made a reference to a quote by newly elected Senator Reverend Warnock that some people perceived as political. I want to state that I was drawn to his words of hope, that we as a nation can move forward with empathy and compassion, and not to his political affiliation. Endorsing candidates for political office or party affiliation has no place in our schools.

Words of hope are also part of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King whose birthday we celebrate as a Nation on Monday. Dr. King embraced the foundation of Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent protest. Dr. King spoke to learning to live together and that by listening to and respecting one another, we can embody the principle that men and women everywhere, regardless of skin color or background, are equal and valued members of the human family.

Have a good weekend!

Larry Licopoli, Ph.D.