



*Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown*

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

District administration believes that instruction in the primary grades is fundamental to establishing a strong foundation for future achievement and that the virtual option can be less effective in the earlier grades for some students. Since it is highly unlikely that district administration will recommend 5 day instruction without social distancing in the immediate future, the district has decided to proceed in the following manner:

1. Building administration will identify large spaces in the buildings which are currently underused and could accommodate a class with proper social distancing.
2. Building administration will then, working with the Physical Plant department and the Technology Department to set up functional classrooms in those large spaces.
3. On Wednesday December 9th, the A and B cohorts for 1st and 2nd grade will be combined and will begin 5 day in-person instruction with appropriate social distancing.

While social distancing will remain in the classroom, parents need to recognize that the current amount of social distancing on the buses will decrease with the additional 1st and 2nd grade students on the elementary runs. While the benefit of in-person instruction outweighs the small increase in risk on the bus, parents always have the option to drive their children to school which would eliminate their additional risk as well as lower the risk for the other students remaining on the bus.

It appears that the Governor has moved in the direction that the decision to close schools will be done at the local level. It is my hope that by maximizing the use of social distancing and mask wearing in the district we will minimize the amount of in-school transmission which will allow us to remain open in the coming months.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office. Stay healthy!

Sincerely,

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools