Dear South Brunswick Community,

Due to an exponential growth in community spread of Covid-19 along with an anticipated staff shortage due to COVID exclusions, along with the recommendation from the Office of Emergency Management as well as our local and district physicians, the SBSD will be operating schools virtually from January 3rd thru January 14th. (Please note that schools will not be in session on Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.). A decision of this magnitude did not come easily and has been a collaboration between the District, the Health Department, County Executive Office, the DOE and local health officials. Unfortunately, the timing of this notice is not ideal. In fact, it is poor timing. However, making a decision like this without the data or direction from the DOE is excessively challenging and requires a good deal of effort from many people to ensure that this is the best choice for our community. We are happy that for those with little ones who may need childcare, we are prepared for that (see below). I wish this was all easier, less disruptive and cleaner, but the pandemic does not seem to play well with others. While timing has consistently been challenging, we do make the best decisions we can, with the information we have, as it comes to us.

Community spread has increased by 400% in the last 10-days and our staffing challenges continue to grow as more and more people are quarantined for exposure or positive tests. In no way was this what we wanted to see happen, but as we have maintained since March 11, 2020, the safety of our students, staff and community will always be our utmost priority.

- **For the week of January 3rd** - We will operate virtually on our regular early release schedule. [Please click here for early release times of all buildings](#). We do need these afternoons for staff to reacclimate to virtual learning as well as time to ensure we are doing all we can for our students.

- **For the week of January 10th** - I will reach out to you during the week to confirm schedules and the like.

**Chromebooks**

As we expect this to only be for a two week period, we ask that if you have a device at home that your child can use to please use it. If your child does not have any device to use at home, you may schedule to pick up a chromebook for the two week period. **This only applies for Pre-K.**
**Kindergarten and First Grade students.** Devices can be picked up from Black Horse Lane. Please click on the following link to schedule a pick up. [https://forms.gle/fSZRqPKUNPUr9sEy5](https://forms.gle/fSZRqPKUNPUr9sEy5).

**Chartwells Lunch Information**
Chartwells Breakfast and Lunch Drop Off/Pick Up Program will resume for this two week period beginning on Monday, January 3rd. [Please click here for more information or to sign up to receive meals from Chartwells.](https://forms.gle/fSZRqPKUNPUr9sEy5).

**Champions Childcare Information**
Champions will be preparing a full-day remote learning program to support the community over the next two weeks. The program will be open from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Champions Directors and Teachers will be available to assist the children with their school assignments as well as provide fun activities and time for fitness— all within a safe, healthy environment. **We will have more details—location, tuition— and information by the afternoon of Monday, January 3, and will follow up with a communication.** Our goal is to open the program/s Tuesday, January 4.

**At this time we are asking families to reach out to their Champions Site Director as soon as possible to confirm interest in having your child participate in this program.** Please supply which days your child/ren will attend. If you are not registered with Champions, please indicate this information in your communication – your school’s Champions Director will provide you with the directions to enroll. [Please click here for site directors email addresses.](https://forms.gle/fSZRqPKUNPUr9sEy5)

**Reporting of Positive Results**
Please use the link below to report Student Positive Covid Test Results. You will receive an email from Student Covid Central about when to return to school and/or activities. The information will be reviewed by your School Nurse and they will reach out in reference to Contact Tracing. [SBSD Student Positive Covid Reporting](https://forms.gle/fSZRqPKUNPUr9sEy5)

As we continue to endure this pandemic, please know that we are here to work with you and your families to ensure both health and safety along with a strong education. I would also like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year! Let’s hope for a better 2022!!

Warmest regards,

Scott