

12/14/20

Dear NSSEO Families,

Here we are in the middle of December closing in on a year like no other. As promised, this communication serves as a status update regarding our NSSEO Extended Adaptive Pause and our plans to transition back into the hybrid models at our respective programs reflected in our November version of the NSSEO ReEngage in Learning Plan in January. For **Kirk Secondary Campus, Timber Ridge School and Miner School**, remote learning will begin on Monday, January 4th, and the in-person hybrid model will begin on **Tuesday, January 5th** in the weekly schedules we had in place in November. For our NSSEO **D/HH Satellite programs**, the early childhood, elementary, middle and high school classes will continue to align to the respective school district sites and return to in-person hybrid on **Tuesday, January 19th**.

As we have shared in previous communication, we continue to monitor external and internal considerations, meet frequently with district leaders and stakeholders and address any areas that have required further clarification or attention. We are very excited and hopeful that as we close 2020 and transition into 2021, we are heading into a more positive, hopeful trend of expanded opportunities for in-person learning. We review community trends daily, participate in Cook County Public Health department meetings, nurses meetings and district collaborations weekly as we navigate the important considerations of implementing our ReEngage in Learning plans thoughtfully, responsibly and safely.

We truly value your ongoing support and partnership. It has made the difference for your children, for our staff and for our NSSEO community. We need that continued partnership as we transition in several important ways. **First, please complete the Crisis-Go self-certification daily by 7:30 A.M., beginning on Monday, January 4th.** This is an important requirement for all students and staff as it provides us critical daily and timely information that reflects daily health status that has a direct impact on the learning environment and planning for every day. Over the past few weeks, the percentage of families completing the self-certification has decreased dramatically, likely due to the extended adaptive pause. We are all excited to transition back into hybrid and need everyone to complete the self-certification as one of the first steps of our daily routines to ensure we are coming to school healthy.

Secondly, if you plan to adjust your child's participation in either the hybrid model or full remote model, please complete this [January Enrollment Selection Change Form](#). **You only need to complete this form if you would like to make a change in your child's enrollment.** Otherwise, we will assume you intend to continue in the enrollment selection that you made this fall. We will use the current transportation schedules established in November. We need any changes by Thursday, December 17th so we can notify the responsible transportation carrier and share any status changes with your child's educational team to be best prepared for the change to hybrid on Tuesday, January 5th, 2021.

For most of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has overshadowed and overwhelmed our lives, our routines, our jobs and our families. We know that it has been especially difficult for our NSSEO families and we are in awe of your ongoing courage and perseverance. I cannot convey our gratitude often enough for your flexibility and understanding as we have had to adjust educational plans several times. We are very hopeful that the year ahead offers great promise - vaccines in our communities, a downward trend in positivity rates that we hope continues and warmer, healthier days ahead.

As I share this update with you, we are so looking forward to advancing to in-person learning on **Tuesday, January 5th** after one day of remote learning after winter break on Monday, January 4th. We will continue our efforts to expand in-person opportunities in the weeks and months ahead as we review and adjust to external and internal needs as 2020 has accentuated the importance of families and health at the center of our worlds. We have always known how special our NSSEO community is and we treasure this community and the collective strength and perseverance we shared to get through it.

One of our NSSEO parent speakers presented to our staff at the NSSEO Opening Day a few years ago and emphasized the importance of hope during life's journey. The quote below seems to capture this year's journey and our challenging travel together through the pandemic. On behalf of all of us at NSSEO, our sincerest wish for a very special holiday season filled with love, gratitude and good health.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judy Hackett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judy" and last name "Hackett" clearly distinguishable.

Judy Hackett, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hope

*If you can only carry one thing throughout your life,
Let it be hope that better things are always ahead.
Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times.
Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way.
Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now
and you are on the path to where you are meant to be....
Because during these times,
hope will be the very thing that carries you through.*

Nikke Bangs