

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2829 CHURCH STREET • PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK 12567-5504

TEL: (518) 398-7181 FAX: (518) 398-6592

WWW.PPCSD.ORG

January 14, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on the status of operations at our schools. As you know, Stissing Mountain Junior Senior High School and Seymour Smith ILC are on full remote instruction until at least February 1st. Again, this was required due to lack of staffing to safely operate those buildings for in person instruction. We are pleased that we are able to keep Cold Spring ELC in hybrid at this time.

You may have read that school staff members are now eligible to receive the COVID vaccine. Much of our staff is eager and willing to be vaccinated. We are finding it is not easy to get an appointment to do so. The problem seems to be that there is a very limited supply of the vaccine. Additionally the distribution system does not appear to be able to accommodate the volume of need. We will continue to look for opportunities for our staff to get these vaccines.

On the subject of required COVID testing, two weeks ago the Governor said in a press conference that schools in counties with a seven-day average positivity rate of 9% or higher would have to test students and staff in order to continue to offer any in person instruction. At this point, there has been nothing further on the subject from the Governor's office. I know that there are counties over the 9% rate. No schools that I know of in those counties have been closed. For reference, the latest seven-day average for Dutchess County is 8.9%.

As was stated in yesterday's message, families that need or want to be added to the meal list for either pick up or delivery should email the school at mealorder@ppcsd.org

As February 1st approaches we will review our staffing situation and give parents as much notice as possible about a potential return to hybrid learning for our two schools. I must also remind parents that we are continuing hybrid at Cold Spring for now but if the need for staff quarantine expands we may have to go full remote there as well.

Stay safe and be well,

Dr. Martin D. Handler
Superintendent