



Sachem Central School District

Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

December 11, 2020

Dear Sachem Family,

This past week our incredible student athletes from both High School East and North along with their coaches and our athletic department were able to hold a socially distanced National Signing Day. The video may be viewed on Monday, December 14th at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNaVI3_F7c0_x4RZy9y-G0Q

Recently we asked the community to fill out a Willingness to Test survey in case the District was placed in a yellow zone whereby we would need to test 20% of our students and staff in order to keep schools open. Thus far we have seen more people have responded and we are getting closer to the required 20%. Yesterday we visited East Islip schools while they held their COVID -19 school testing. In the coming days, we will be putting together an FAQ and more details including:

- Who conducted the tests
- Where, when and how we would conduct our tests
- Video of the test type and being taken

As you already know the Sachem School District is quite a bit larger and more spread out than the East Islip District, but we learned some valuable lessons in watching the testing unfold. I hope to get this additional information out to you in the coming week.

Lastly as there has been a rise in positive COVID cases across the community and in our schools, more families are deciding now to move their child from in person learning to remote learning. At this time, we are at capacity in our secondary Remote Academy and will need to keep anyone choosing remote, in the Google Classroom with the teachers they currently have. We are attempting to place more students and will attempt to hire more staff for the Remote Academy, but we cannot be certain this will happen. As stated earlier this year we are building up our infrastructure and bandwidth to offer livestreaming from classrooms. We hope to have this work completed in late January/early February to support these new remote learners and our hybrid students.

I know we are all suffering COVID fatigue, but it seems we still unfortunately have a way to go. We can do this!

Please stay well.

Chris Pellettieri

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#WeAreSachem

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