



# SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School • 272 Morris Avenue • Summit, New Jersey 07901•908-273-1190

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Dr. Donna Gallo, Principal

Mr. John Ciferni, Asst. Principal

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November 20, 2020

Dear LCJSMS Students and Parents,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and well. Please see the information below regarding a few school topics.

## **Covid Update**

Below in this letter you will find updated information about Covid-19 and the district's efforts when conducting contact tracing and to keep our schools open and safe. Please read carefully.

## **LCJSMS Fall Production**

LCJSMS will be virtually presenting the hilarious and topical “10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine” by Don Zolidis on Friday, November 11 from 7:00PM-8:00PM. Tickets will be available online starting Monday 11/30. Those who purchase tickets will receive a password protected link in order to stream the one night only production. More information will be shared on Monday.

## **In-Person Extra-Curricular & Athletics Activities**

All in-person extracurricular and athletic activities are cancelled until further notice based on Department of Health recommendations. All virtual activities will continue.

## **Genesis Account Settings**

Please see [this video](#) to learn about configuring your account settings in Genesis.

## **Cohort Calendar**

Please click this [link](#) to view the Maroon/Gold & A/B Day Calendar. This shows the schedule to the end of January. An updated calendar will be available on the website soon.

## **Be Prepared with Warm Clothing**

As the weather gets colder, please remind students to be prepared with warmer clothing in school. PE classes will be outside and windows in classrooms will be open. Dress in layers!

## **Want to change your student's Instructional Model?**

There is a December 15th deadline to change from fully virtual to an in-person instruction model. Changes are effective beginning January 1st. Please email me at [dgallo@summit.k12.nj.us](mailto:dgallo@summit.k12.nj.us) to request a change in instructional model.

## **COVID-19**

As our school community continues to navigate through this unique year, I wanted to share some updated information on behalf of our District's administration team.

First, if you learn that your child has tested positive for COVID-19, it is critical that you inform the building principal and school nurse as soon as possible. If you receive the positive result after work hours, please add "[covidreporting@summit.k12.nj.us](mailto:covidreporting@summit.k12.nj.us)" to your email along with the principal and nurse. This will ensure that someone from the District will respond quickly and begin the contact tracing procedure in collaboration with the Department of Health.

If the District, in collaboration with the Department of Health, does not have enough time to complete contact tracing before the start of the next school day, it is possible for a classroom or school to close for 24 hours. This will allow for the contact tracing procedure to be completed without putting anyone potentially at risk by coming into school. We will do everything we can to notify our school community in a timely manner in the event of a closure in any capacity, but that largely depends on the timing of the notification to the school.

We have all learned how quickly someone can be impacted by the circumstances of COVID-19, such as being told to quarantine for 14 days. If you or your child see a staff member working remotely or see a classmate logging in remotely when they usually attend in-person instruction, please do not be alarmed or make assumptions about that individual. If anyone is deemed a potential close contact to a positive COVID-19 case, they will be asked to quarantine. This does not mean they automatically have COVID-19, but we have to follow the Department of Health's guidance to keep potential close contacts away from others. While you may request or desire more information about a case, releasing specific or identifiable details violates confidentiality. We ask for your trust and understanding that we are following guidance from the Department of Health and are doing everything we can to keep students and staff healthy and safe at school.

We cannot stress the guidance from health experts enough to avoid social gatherings. We have seen how both small indoor gatherings where individuals are unmasked and not distancing and large social gatherings alike impact our schools' ability to remain open. It is imperative that we limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission by avoiding social gatherings. It is understandable how difficult this is, especially with the holidays approaching. However, in order to keep schools open we need cooperation from our entire school community. Continued diligence from every Summit family is critical in our ability to prevent school closures. We thank everyone in advance for following these mitigation measures in an effort to keep our community healthy and safe, and our schools open.

Respectfully,

***Dr. Gallo***

LCJSMS Principal