

November 29, 2021

Dear Rye Neck Families,

## Digital Equity

To ensure digital equity for all New York students, the State Education Department has released a brief 9-question survey about your child's access to technology. The questions provided by NYSED focus on availability and sharing of devices, and internet access and reliability. Due to the state's data collection process, the survey needed to be accessible through the eSchool Parent Portal and was opened with the 1st quarter grades for middle and high school students. At this time, we have data for half of our students in grades 6-12. Please sign in to the portal if you have not yet done so. The elementary survey data will be collected during the second half of the year.

We thank you for your participation and attention to this. As we progress through our own DEI process, it is important to recognize the many ways diversity, equity, and inclusion manifests itself in the school environment. The growth of the importance of digital access caused by the pandemic coincides with the state's emphasis on making sure that all students have what they need to learn.

## Weekly COVID Case Update

### Week of November 22nd:

- One 11th grader was reported positive on November 28th; no quarantines were necessary.
- One 1st grader was reported positive on November 27th; no quarantines were necessary.
- One 1st grader was reported positive on November 25th; parents of students who needed to quarantine were notified.
- One 2nd grader was reported positive on November 23rd; no quarantines were necessary.
- One 5th grader was reported positive on November 22nd; no quarantines were necessary.
- All cases are recorded under the COVID tab on our district website.

During our weekly superintendent's meeting with Westchester County officials we discussed the recent rise in infection rate. Yet, it was also pointed out that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Westchester County today, November 28th, 2021, is half that of the same date one year ago. Our county is in much better shape than most others in New York. Our overall situation remains the same despite this good news/bad news. Our response to rising and falling infection rates, new variants like Omicron that have unknown effects, changes in weather, etc. must be a steady balance between keeping schools open and functioning with as many "normal" activities as possible while simultaneously sticking to the procedures and guidance that keep our students and staff safe.

Best regards,



Dr. Eric Lutinski, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools