



November 7, 2022

Dear Rye Neck Families,

### **Three Out of Five**

Why are your children home on Election Day, November 8th? The New York State Education Department allows schools to incorporate “Superintendent’s Conference Days” into the annual school calendar. The purpose of these days is to engage in professional development activities with the staff; since we’re in a profession centered around contact time with students, these valuable days give us rare time without instructional and supervision responsibilities.

Our staff will be busy with time well spent. All three campuses will perform safety drills to help assess our communications, technology, and ability to adapt. The absence of students affords us the time to debrief in depth after these drills. Additionally, our teachers will gather throughout the day regarding our elementary math pilots; science and social studies planning; curriculum mapping; and an array of department and team-level concerns.

Finally, our MS/HS building is a polling place and it is easier to move local voters in and out when students are not present.

We finish the week with Veterans Day on Friday, November 11th, which means no school for students and staff that day. President Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day in 1919 to commemorate the end of WWI and recognize the service of veterans. It became a national holiday in 1938 and the name was changed to Veterans Day (no apostrophe) in 1954 to encompass U.S. veterans of all wars.

This will be the tenth week of school. Of those ten, only five have been full five-day weeks and this week will be the second to have only three school days. Despite the interruption in class, these days off have a place in education. We support the civic instruction goals of the NYSED when we observe national holidays, promote civic participation by facilitating voting, and conduct professional development to improve the quality of our work.

Best regards,

Dr. Eric Lutinski  
Superintendent of Schools