



## News & Updates - November 2020

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### COVID-19 School Operations Reminders

As we see a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus in our community, our state, and across the country, I wanted to share some reminders in terms of our practices and procedures as developed for the Montville Township Public Schools Reopening Plan as well as some additional details and clarification.

We have had positive cases in a number of our schools. To date, we have not documented any cases of transmission within the classroom. When a positive case is identified, we work closely with the Montville Health Department to conduct contact tracing and notify any close contacts of the positive case of their need to quarantine. It is possible that a teacher or a student could be in a class with a positive case and not have to quarantine. It depends on whether the individual has had close contact. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for a 10-minute period or for 15 minutes over the course of a 24-hour period to a person with COVID-19 during the period 48 hours before the onset of symptoms in that case.

If a student or staff member is required to quarantine as a result of close contact, you will receive direct notification. The general voice messages that are sent to all staff and parents when a positive case is identified is to alert you that a case was identified in the school. The fourteen day quarantine period **cannot be shortened by a negative COVID-19 test** during the 14 day period. Students may attend school virtually during their quarantine period.

For those students who are in-person students, it should be noted that in-person attendance is expected unless the student is required to quarantine or is ill (which should be reported to the nurse as per the school's normal procedures). Parents should not call their student in as "virtual for the day" in order to have a long weekend or engage in travel. If an in-person student is virtual for the day due to illness, parents should not come to school to collect materials for the student to utilize at home.

Please remind students who are riding a bus that face coverings must be worn at all times. Students are expected to sit in their assigned seat. No food should be consumed on the buses.

With the holidays approaching, everyone is again reminded of the need to quarantine for 14 days if you travel to one of the states included on New Jersey's list of states with a travel advisory (see the link to the listing below, which is updated each week on Tuesday.) In addition, please be reminded that the CDC's travel recommendations state that many countries are still categorized as a Level-3 high COVID-19 risk and suggests that all nonessential travel to these countries be avoided.

[New Jersey's Travel Advisory Listing](#)

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### Montville Township Public Schools Earn Recognition

Montville Township High School won a 2020 College Success Award from GreatSchools. MTHS is one of 2,158 public high schools (about 21 percent of total eligible schools across 29 states) that won this year's award. "The College Success Award-winning high schools are identified based on school-level college preparation and postsecondary data which are collected and shared by their states. This tells us whether students are prepared for college, enroll in college and ready for college-level coursework when they get there, and/or persist on to their second year."

In October, Niche.com released its listing of New Jersey's top 100 school districts for 2020-2021. For 2020-2021, Montville is ranked at #35. We have made great progress on this list over the past couple of years. In 2019, we were #61 and in 2020 we were #47.

## **Acting Morris County Executive Superintendent of Schools Nominated as NJ Commissioner of Education**

On October 20, 2020, Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan was nominated by Governor Phil Murphy to serve as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education. The Acting Commissioner most recently served as the Morris Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

Allen-McMillan has a 25-year career in public education, beginning her career in education as a substitute teacher in Essex County. She went on to found the Marion P. Thomas Charter School in Newark. She served as an assistant principal and principal in the South Orange-Maplewood School District, and as an assistant superintendent in both Irvington Public Schools and Newark Public Schools.

A parent of three, Acting Commissioner Allen-McMillan has also served on the Montclair Board of Education, where she focused her expertise in the area of special education. She also volunteered as a PTA Executive Board member while her children were in elementary school, coordinating fundraising efforts and promoting parental involvement in all facets of school.

She holds a bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University, and she earned a master's in educational administration, as well as a doctorate in education, leadership, management and policy, from Seton Hall University. She has served as trustee for the County College of Morris and as a board of education member of the Morris County School of Technology. She will serve as Acting Commissioner pending confirmation by the State Senate.



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**School News**

### *Bits and Pieces...*

The National Speech and Debate Association has included Montville Township High School on its list of the Top 100 Schools in the USA. MTHS was one of only two schools in New Jersey to each this distinction.