



SIMSBBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 7, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

It's hard to believe that that fall is upon us and an entire month of the school year is in the books. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for a successful start to the school year. The collective efforts of our staff and students, coupled with the support of our parent community, will undoubtedly be the key to our continued success moving forward. While there are still Covid related protocols and mitigation strategies that must stay in place for the time being, the learning experiences and pace of the school day have a much more normal feel this year than last.

This past weekend culminated in a full slate of Homecoming activities with our high school hosting its first home football game in well over a year. It was great to have so many students and members of our community on campus enjoying a Friday night game under the lights! This was followed by an outdoor homecoming dance, an event that drew over 300 of our students for an evening of socializing and fun. I want to thank those staff members who helped to organize these opportunities for our students and community. These experiences are crucial to our overall student experience and success.

Our community continues to be a leader with regard to overall vaccination rates with over 90 percent of age eligible individuals having received the vaccine. As of our last report we have 97 percent of our staff vaccinated, an incredibly high number. These high vaccination rates have positively impacted our ability to hold our instruction in person, enable students to participate in sports and afterschool activities, and do so with minimal disruption. As the vaccine is soon to become approved for younger children we will communicate any plans that the local health department has regarding vaccine clinics.

This past week the Simsbury Public Schools saw a substantial decrease in the number of Covid cases in our schools with four, all at the elementary level. I am encouraged by the recent trend at the state level as the case numbers, hospitalizations, and positivity rate are all down in the last few weeks. I know we have all grown weary of Covid and its associated restrictions but I remain optimistic that we are moving in a positive direction! And while opinions differ on topics such as mandates and the Governor's executive powers, I appreciate the civility that members of our community exhibit in expressing themselves on these topics and I look forward to our continued problem solving together.

On the teaching and learning front, I would encourage you to watch the BOE meeting that was held at Simsbury High School on September 28th. Not only did the high school team do a great job of sharing their vision for the coming year, the board was given a presentation by our newly restructured teaching and learning team. I felt the presentation provided a unique insight into the district strategic planning for the school year and the areas of focus in supporting all of our students as we initiate the school year.

Enjoy the upcoming long weekend with family and friends.

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools