



# TEANECK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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December 30, 2021

Hello TCCS Community,

I hope that everyone is enjoying a safe and relaxing holiday break. As we prepare to return to instruction on Monday, January 3, there are some important updates that I need to share.

As you know, whether it be from media coverage or personal experience, we are currently in the middle of a surge of [positive Covid-19 cases](#) and elevated transmission rates. With these numbers, and the recently updated [CALI score](#) of “Very High” in our area, we will be taking some updated precautions for our return to school on Monday (in addition to those that I outlined on [12/23](#)).

In order for our school days to count towards the 180 day school calendar, we are required to offer them in-person - unless we are instructed to go remote by the health department or via an executive order from the governor (neither of which have been issued at this point). Therefore, as long as we have sufficient staffing to offer our mandated in-person operations, we will be continuing with them - with our existing mitigation precautions (masking, testing, social distancing, cohorting, enhanced air filtration, etc.) in place.

However, in order to further reduce the potential spread of Covid-19 in our school community, we will follow a HALF DAY schedule (see attached) for all students for the entire week of January 3-7 (originally, we were only supposed to have a half day on Wednesday, January 5). This will greatly reduce the time where students are maskless (typically our lunch, snack, and recess periods), which are the times the health department has advised pose the greatest risk of transmission. In addition to the reduced potential exposure offered by this modified schedule, we will be resuming our in-school Covid-19 testing program to gather updated data and respond to any new cases accordingly. Once we have this information, we will be in a much better position to offer full day in-person instruction starting on Monday, 1/10.

With this in mind, I **IMPLORE** all families to register their students for our free testing program (if they haven't tested positive for Covid-19 within the past 90 days). At a time when testing is very difficult to obtain, your participation in this free program is a great way to keep your household, and the school community as a whole, safe and informed. Please complete the consent form at <https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent> and use the district access code: **NFIW5A**

With this switch to a half day schedule for next week, there are a few important things to note. Students who are eligible for transportation services will still receive them, but will follow our half day schedule (with dismissal beginning at 12:18pm). Students who ordered lunch will be provided their packaged meals at the end of the day to consume at home.

Additionally, during the week of January 3-7, there will be NO aftercare or in-person extracurricular activities. Parents who have pre-paid for aftercare will receive a prorated credit for these 4 days at the end of the school year.

With the clear increase in the number of positive cases in our community, I want to take this opportunity to clarify questions that many of you may have regarding quarantine periods for positive cases and close contacts. While the CDC has made various new recommendations regarding minimized quarantine periods for some individuals, they have not yet been adopted by the NJ Department of Health, who we follow. Until that changes, we will continue to follow the guidance that we received from the state:

**Positive Cases:** Individuals who test positive must quarantine for a period of 10 days from the date of the positive test or the onset of symptoms (whichever is earlier). A negative test is NOT required for return to school after this period, as long as the individual is feeling better and has no symptoms. (Again, students may not participate in our in-school testing programs for 90 days due to the likelihood of false positives after recovery).

**Close Contacts:** Non-vaccinated individuals who are within close contact of a positive case for at least 15 minutes in a 24 hour period must quarantine for 7 days (with a negative Covid test taken between 5-7 days of exposure) or 10 days (without a test). Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine, but should be tested 5 days from exposure (or sooner, if symptoms develop). Those who have tested positive for Covid-19 within 90 days do not need to quarantine, either.

**Travelers:** Non-vaccinated individuals who travel beyond NJ or bordering states must quarantine for 7 days (with a negative Covid test) or 10 days (without a test) after they return home from their trip. Those who have tested positive for Covid-19 within 90 days do not need to quarantine.

**IF YOUR STUDENT FALLS INTO ANY OF THE ABOVE 3 CATEGORIES, PLEASE LET US KNOW USING THE FORMS LOCATED AT THE TOP OF THE [TCCS WEBSITE!](#)**

If your student must quarantine for any of these reasons and you are unsure of when they may return to school, please email me at [rgallo@tccsnj.org](mailto:rgallo@tccsnj.org) and I will assist.

I understand that these changes pose an inconvenience to our community and do not take them lightly, but they are important measures to slow the spread of the virus at this time. I am hopeful that with your cooperation and increased vaccination rates within our school community (please continue to [submit student vaccination data](#) in the parent portal!), we will be able to get back to some of the “normalcy” that we enjoyed earlier this school year.

Should there be any additional changes or updates regarding quarantine periods and/or our school operations, they will be communicated as soon as possible. Otherwise, thank you again for your flexibility and support as we do our best to keep our students and staff safe. Enjoy the rest of your holiday break and have a Happy New Year!

Thanks and Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Gallo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ralph" being more prominent than the last name "Gallo".

Ralph Gallo

Lead Person / Director



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## TCCS HALF DAY BELL SCHEDULE

2021-2022 School Year

Updated 10/1/2021

### Kindergarten

Period
AM Homeroom 8:30-8:35am
1 8:35am-9:02am
2 9:03am-9:30am
3 9:31am-9:58am
5 9:59am-10:26am
6 10:27am-10:54am
7 10:55am-11:22am
8 11:23am-11:50am
9 11:51am-12:18pm
Dismissal 12:18pm-12:28pm

### Lower School Grades 1-4

Period
AM Homeroom 8:30-8:35am
1 8:35am-9:02am
2 9:03am-9:30am
3 9:31am-9:58am
4 9:59am-10:26am
5 10:27am-10:54am
7 10:55am-11:22am
8 11:23am-11:50am
9 11:51am-12:18pm
PM Homeroom (Grades 3-8) 12:18pm-12:28pm

### Upper School Grades 5-8

Period
AM Homeroom 8:30-8:35am
1 8:35am-9:02am
2 9:03am-9:30am
3 9:31am-9:58am
4 9:59am-10:26am
6 10:27am-10:54am
7 10:55am-11:22am
8 11:23am-11:50am
9 11:51am-12:18pm
PM Homeroom (Grades 3-8) 12:18pm-12:28pm