Superintendent's Update - 2/18/2022

As we head into winter break we are positioned well to have an enjoyable and fulfilling end of the 2021-2022 school year. I am sharing a couple of updates with you in preparation for a safe return.

THANK YOU - On behalf of the school district, thank you so much for your work as an educational partner throughout COVID-19. The past two years have not been easy; however, I am proud of how our faculty, staff, Board of Education, parents, and students stepped up during these challenging times. I witnessed how people pulled together when needed, advocated, focused on safety, and helped to provide the best education possible during an unconventional and unexpected time. We are progressing through the global pandemic and look forward to the better days ahead.

REQUEST to Test - CareStart Home COVID-19 Tests were distributed this week to our entire learning community (students/faculty/staff/associated and individuals on campus). As a mitigation strategy, **our learning community are all requested to test at home on Sunday, 2/27, prior to returning to school**. Note - Although some CareStart tests have an expiration of "FEB 2022" their shelf life is through "MAY 2022" See this link for specifics. If a student, faculty, or staff member tests positive, please complete the following survey "Report a Positive COVID case here" on the District webpage and isolate.

Masking Update - At present, public schools in New York are required to mask while indoors. I expect a change in that requirement in the subsequent weeks following winter break. **The Ardsley School District is positioned to shift to optional masking** and **will respect all individuals' masking choice throughout the 2021-2022 school year**. When the time comes, a formal announcement will be made by the Ardsley Superintendent to make the shift. This will assure that

there is a common understanding of expectations as we shift toward a better sense of normalcy while maintaining safety standards.

Superintendent's Round Table - Technology Plan - We are scheduling our first 2022 Round Table with a focus group to look closely at our proposed Technology Goals. There are already 20 individuals who have interest in joining via their survey submission. I am extending an invitation to others to join in and meet virtually on **Wednesday, March 2, from 7:30-8:30 pm**. Dr. Schoenfeld, Dr. Wilson, and Technology Director, Sabrina Rich will be facilitating the meeting to explore feedback from the parent survey, hear your questions, and ask for suggestions for ways to clarify and improve our proposed goals. If you are interested in participating, please contact Liz DeMicco, edemicco@ardsleyschools.org, to obtain a link to the meeting. Below is additional information about the drafted Technology Plan Goals:

To prepare students for their future in the world we need to:

Goal #1: Promote Active Learning.

- How are we learning from the recent move to 1:1?
- How is 1:1 access shifting instructional practices?
- How do students learn best in these evolving environments?
- What is the current impact of our Computer Science and Computational Thinking Curriculum K-12?
- What are the next steps in a Computer Science For All Framework?
- What other frontier technologies should we explore?

Goal #2: Define and Promote Digital Wellness.

- What is the impact of 1:1 programming on students?
- What goals and guidelines are needed for our youngest learners?
- What is the connection between Digital Access and SEL, Digital Citizenship, Equity, extracurriculars, college and career planning?

- What is the current impact of our Computer Science and Computational Thinking Curriculum K-12?

Goal #3: Provide Ongoing Professional Development to Support the Effective Use of Technology in Instruction.

- How are we learning from the recent move to 1:1?
- How is that shifting instructional practices to support student learning?
- How do teachers learn best in this new environment?

Have a safe and enjoyable winter break!

With warm regards and wellness,
Dr. Ryan Schoenfeld