



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS
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Dear Citta Elementary School staff, parents and families:

After careful consideration and with guidance from the Ocean County Health Department, we've made the decision to temporarily close Citta Elementary School for 10 days. The last date in which the school had students in its building was Thursday, Jan. 28. Therefore, our temporary halt to in-person instruction began on Friday, Jan. 29, with a reopening and **return to hybrid learning scheduled for Monday, February 8**. Beginning tomorrow, Feb. 2, through Feb. 8, students and staff will work within an all-virtual model of instruction, adhering to the current daily [hybrid schedule](#).

We are making this temporary transition so that we can ensure a consistent instructional program while maintaining our top priority of keeping our Citta Elementary School students and staff healthy and safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since receiving notice of an increasing amount of positive cases within the school, and after consulting with OCHD, our nurses, and our leadership team, we determined the safest, most cautious, and correct approach is to temporarily put a halt to in-person instruction. A temporary closure can consist of remote learning for up to 14 days, according to OCHD guidance, and this 10-day period aligns with that guidance.

I understand this is not ideal, and I acknowledge the hardships this imposes on our parents. I sympathize, sincerely. Which is why I wanted to reach out to our Citta Elementary School community personally to thank you for your ongoing patience and support, and to reassure you that I and everyone here-- from our school board to our maintenance staff-- are working tirelessly to ensure that your school and all of our schools continue to be the safest possible environments during this extremely challenging time.

Principal Shannon Brown, who has done a wonderful job managing a difficult situation, and her team is available for any questions or concerns you may have, and you may contact her office at 732-818-8550. Thank you, again, for your patience, understanding, and flexibility, and please continue to be on the lookout for communication from your school throughout the next week.

Regards,

Thomas Gialanella

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Interim Superintendent of Schools

TG/tmd