



Committed to Excellence

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Trumbull Families and Staff,

I want to start by thanking all of you. The 2021-2022 school year has presented many challenges to parents, students, and staff. It has been our goal to make this school year as normal as possible and provide our students with a high-quality learning experience. While we continue to follow safety protocols around COVID, we also want to ensure that our students have an opportunity to be kids and that our teachers get to employ their most effective instructional strategies. We have welcomed back our enrichment programs, all sports programs, and we are grateful for our wonderful parent organizations as they get back to full throttle as well. As I visit each school, I am inspired by the hard work, collaboration, and care that is demonstrated by students and staff alike as they engage in teaching and learning. I look forward to our continued work as we make the 2021-2022 school year an excellent one.

School Climate Survey

It is important for us to gather survey data from our parents. I would ask that every parent/guardian in our district take about 10 minutes to answer our [School Climate Survey](#). Students are being given an opportunity to answer a student version of this survey while in school. The data that we collect from these surveys will be reviewed by our district and school level teams to identify areas of celebration and growth. In the spring, we will ask that you complete the survey again. This will help us identify areas where our intentional steps have had an impact for the good and identify areas that need additional effort. We expect to use this survey data each year as one way to update our improvement plan.

Enrollment Update

Did you know that the Trumbull Public Schools added 125 elementary students to our school population from October 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021? These additional students led to the hiring of four additional members of our teaching staff. We are pleased to welcome our new students and families to Trumbull and the Trumbull Public Schools. You can find my most recent enrollment update to the BOE (October 12, 2021) [here](#).

COVID Update

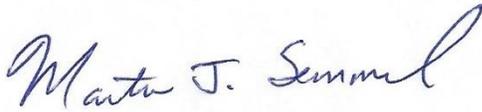
In general, we have been fortunate to avoid a significant number of positive cases in our schools. However, when cases arrive, the quarantines are no fun. Thankfully, 74.72% of our students ages 12-17 in Trumbull are fully vaccinated. This means when a positive case arrives in grades 7-12, many of our close contacts can avoid quarantining. This vaccination rate continues to slowly rise. We understand that a lower dose version of the Pfizer vaccine may be considered for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in the future. If this EUA is provided, it will likely be for children ages 5-11. We will not be holding vaccine clinics in our schools if the FDA grants this authorization. We are

being told that pharmacies will have the vaccine widely available.

In terms of quarantines, I have asked the State Department of Public Health to explore other ways to reduce the length of quarantines for our close contacts or eliminate them altogether. We have been in school for close to 30 days and it does not appear that we have any transmission in our schools. That does not mean that transmission cannot occur. I have shared information with the DPH about how other states like Massachusetts are limiting quarantines through a [test and stay](#) model for close contacts. They have shared with me that they are reviewing the results of that practice.

Finally, if your child is identified as a close contact, you will likely feel some level of frustration. You will have questions and will possibly speak with our school nurse. Please know that our school nurses did not write the rules on close contacts or quarantining, but are simply trying to help. Please be mindful of this and appreciate that our school nurses have been on the front line of this pandemic for the past 19 months.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin J. Semmel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Superintendent