



# INTERBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

900 WASHINGTON AVENUE

PROSPECT PARK, PA

MAINTAINED BY THE BOROUGH OF GLENOLDEN, NORWOOD, PROSPECT PARK AND TINICUM

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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February 12, 2021

## Creating a Classroom Community of Engaged Learners

Dear Interboro School Community,

As the first semester has come to an end, ISD must address the importance of active student participation during [synchronous class attendance](#). We believe the best learning environment for our students is one that includes collaboration, problem-solving, and the use of 21st-century skills. Research has identified the importance of establishing strong positive classroom communities that promote student interactions and participation as key elements in maximizing student learning and growth. Together, we must foster a learning structure where students feel comfortable keeping their videos on during remote learning and actively engaging in class discussions with their peers and teachers.

To increase student engagement and achievement, our teachers will be communicating to students the following:

### *Students will be strongly encouraged to...*

- *Be visible on camera for the portion of the class period directed by the teacher (note - teachers will offer camera breaks and only encourage students to be visible when collaborating as a classroom community or small group)*
- *Be ready to respond if called on by the teacher*
- *Actively engage in discussions during breakout sessions with peers*
- *Interact in a respectful, empathetic, inclusive, and supportive manner*
- *Be in a learning environment that is free from distractions*

Teachers will be mindful and understanding of times when students have to step away and turn their video off and will communicate with students when it is appropriate to do so. We encourage parents to reach out to their child's teacher, school counselor, case manager, and/ or school administrator if they have specific concerns regarding these recommendations. In addition, teachers will reach out to families if there is a concern about a student's active participation.

The 2020-2021 school year has been filled with many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so proud of the resilience our students, families, and teachers have demonstrated so far this year. When students are visibly present and active in class, our teachers can continue to provide the best learning experience possible so that students can continue to reach their highest potential.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Bernadette C. Reiley, Superintendent of Schools