



Mr. Carl L. Albano, Superintendent  
1100 Route 9D  
Garrison, NY 10524

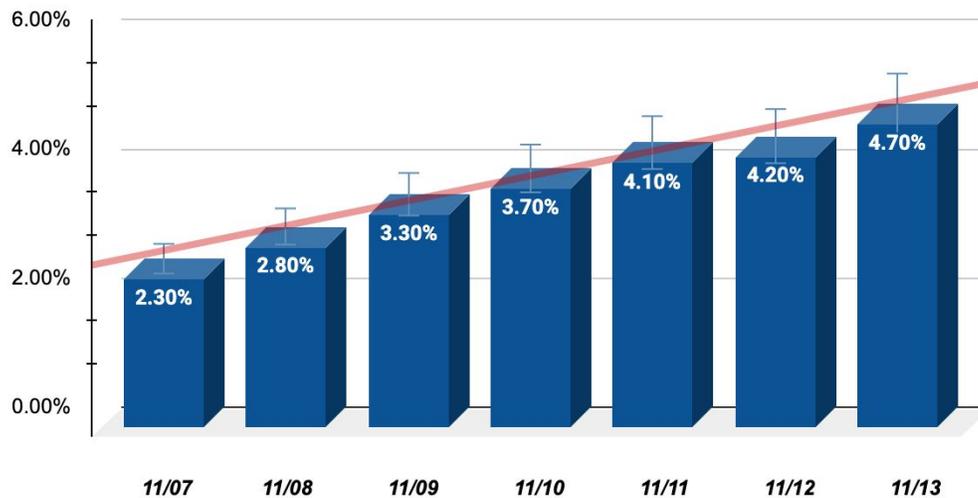
Tel: (845) 424-3689 ext. #222  
calbano@gufs.org  
www.gufs.org

November 14, 2020

Dear Garrison Parents/Guardians,

As of November 13th, Putnam County's COVID-19 positivity rate 7-day rolling average has been above New York's Micro Cluster target metric of 3.5% for four consecutive days (please see below). If this current infection rate is sustained through November 19th, our area will be designated as a *Yellow Precautionary Zone* according to the most recent guidance. Considering Putnam County's current trajectory of infections, and the record number of cases and hospitalizations across our country, I have decided that Tuesday, November 17th will be the last day of in-person learning for The Garrison School until further notice. Beginning on Wednesday, November 18th, all K-8 students will transition to a 100% remote learning model.

**Putnam County's COVID-19 Positivity Rate  
7-Day Rolling Average**



I am providing this advance notice so our students, families, and teachers will have the opportunity to plan accordingly. Our teachers have been working hard with the support of Mrs. Emig, and our new Interim Director of Technology, Scott Kaufman, to organize and refine their remote learning programs, and will spend the next two school days preparing students to make this transition. The three main platforms that our school will be using are Google Classroom, Google Meet and Zoom.

On Monday and Tuesday, our staff will begin sending learning materials home with children. For those students who are not in school, arrangements for all parent pick-ups will be coordinated by our teachers and main office. If you are not contacted by your child's teacher regarding a pick-up, that means it is simply not necessary at this time. If your child needs a school issued Chromebook, please email [datasupport@gufs.org](mailto:datasupport@gufs.org), and include your name, your child's name and contact information.

Students who have been learning remotely through the iTutor model will have the opportunity to switch to The Garrison School teachers' remote learning classes on Wednesday. Mrs. Emig and I will be holding an information session for all parents of iTutor students on Monday evening at 7:00 pm to explain all available options. A Zoom invitation for this meeting will be sent out to parents of iTutor students shortly.

Tuesday, November 17th will mark our 49th day of in-person school this year. This remarkable accomplishment would not have been possible without the incredible dedication and courage of our staff, the cooperation and vigilance of our parents, and the unwavering guidance and support of our Board of Education. I am deeply grateful to all of you for making the first quarter of this school year such a success under the most challenging conditions faced by schools in recent history.

It is my sincere hope that through a universal commitment to mask wearing and social distancing, the infection rate will be brought under control in the near future. If we can reverse the positivity rate trendline in our area, we will certainly consider reopening in-person school. If we need to remain in a remote learning model for a long duration, I am confident that our staff will make every effort to provide our students with the best possible education.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Emig or me if you have any questions about this information.

I wish you and your families a healthy and safe holiday season.

Very truly yours,

*Carl L. Albano*