



Burch Charter School of Excellence
100 Linden Avenue, Irvington, NJ 07111
(973) 373-3223

www.burchcharterschool.org

Dr. Jeff White, Chief School Administrator

Mr. Timothy Simmons, Vice Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Stein, Vice Principal

November 30, 2020

Dear Burch Charter School of Excellence scholars, staff, parents/families and community,

Thankful not only describes this past holiday week but my mood as well. I write today to offer my thanks for students, Burch staff and our community as a whole for hanging tough through this pandemic. It has been a grind of uncertainty for everyone. Through it all, the resilience of staff and scholars continue to move us all forward. Parents, as teachers at home, have been invaluable.

“Pandemic fatigue” has been talked about on the news and by our elected leaders. It has been a long nine months but we are going to get through this. We, as a community, need to continue to follow the guidance of medical experts to mask up, practice social distancing and wash our hands regularly. This guidance is important for community health. It also helps to keep our school’s Covid-19 data in the range that allows our school to welcome Tiers 2 and 3, Special Education and English Language Learner students to school on January 25, 2021.

We hope that all of our community members were able to use this year’s Thanksgiving break wisely and safely. This was a well-deserved break and opportunity to enjoy your families. For others, especially students who have fallen behind in classes, this was an important week to catch up. We trust that all were able to find the balance of studying and relaxing before the quick sprint to winter break (December 23, 2020 – January 1, 2021). Remember, scholars will be given second marking period 5-week progress reports on December 15, 2020 – released through the [Parent Portal](#). Students should use this time to make up work and/or demonstrate the proficiencies needed to show success.

It is important for scholars and parents/families to keep up with the online learning as scholars’ grades are now based on a [Standards-Based Report Card System](#). Some scholars who have previously received high marks are not under the new system. This is not a reflection of their abilities, but the lack of completion of work and/or attending online classes. The Burch staff and administration are here to support all of our amazing scholars and their parents/families. Please connect with us to ensure a continuation of high academic success for students during online learning. Also, continue to follow us on the [Burch Charter School of Excellence](#) website and all of our social media platforms; [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [ClassDojo](#) and [Instagram](#) for important information and updates regarding our instructional programming and school community events.

In closing, this letter expresses my heartfelt thanks to our entire Burch Charter School of Excellence community. Working together we can continue to make the best out of the most challenging global health crisis in which we are currently living. Welcome back from Thanksgiving Holiday. We, at Burch, are ready to get back to work providing our scholars with an academically rigorous education for which they are most deserving.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeff White

Dr. Jeff White
Chief School Administrator