



## Script of Dr. Block's March 25, 2021 Video Message

Hello Livingston Public Schools Community, this is Matt Block Superintendent of Schools

We are proud to have presented the ***Spring Forward at LPS 2021*** plan earlier this month. The purpose of the plan is to continue transitioning our schools to more in-person experiences as we look forward to normal times, and forge ahead on our path to open our schools for full in-person learning in September. Our next big pivot will happen on April 5th, the day we return to school from Spring Break.

Health professionals from the community have consistently told us that schools are safe places largely because of the mitigation measures that have been implemented, and the fidelity with which they have been followed. Particularly as we have seen the recent increase in positive cases in our schools and region we must continue to prioritize health and safety in our schools as we “spring forward.”

We are reminded by experts on health and safety, that the greatest risk of spreading the virus in our schools and community derives from the decisions that students, staff, and families make during the times they are NOT in our school facilities, and the situations that occur beyond the school walls. Experience over the past year has demonstrated that it is far less likely that our journey back to normal will be diverted by something that happens in school. It is far more probable that events that happen outside of school could derail our progress. In other words, we must remember that one large gathering outside of school could quickly set us back and bring a halt to our spring forward.

Students who travel must quarantine. Students and families need to know that they will not be penalized for following travel guidelines. We NEED you to follow the guidelines. As a matter of fact, no student will be negatively affected if they elect to access classes remotely for the first two weeks after spring break. We need everyone to put safety first. Please, continue to fill out the daily COVID tracker and continue to use it faithfully. Stay home if you feel sick or think you may have come in contact with someone who is positive for COVID. If in doubt, we would rather you err on the side of caution and access school remotely. Please know, anyone who chooses to fill out the tracker dishonestly will immediately be sent home until the required quarantine period has ended.

We implore the members of our community to continue doing their part to keep our schools open by contributing, through their personal choices, to the health and safety of everyone in Livingston. Not doing so will result in us pausing our next steps in increasing our student capacity and time in schools, something we all value. Only through our collective dedication to one another will we realize the successful navigation of these exciting next steps.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy, and relaxing Spring Break week.

Thank you.

