

Dear School Community,

As we complete week five of remote learning, I wanted to let you know that we are thinking about and planning ahead for a variety of possibilities. I speak daily with central office administration, principals and supervisors who are listening to teachers, students, and parents, and we are monitoring the curriculum and the remote learning experience of our students. We appreciate your feedback and continue to develop new ways to connect.

As we look forward to the possibility of a return to school in May, early June, or perhaps even later, we are further considering what key concepts and skills are most important to teach and what assessment, grading, and report cards will look like.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Teachers and content supervisors are making decisions daily about a scope and sequence for all courses in planning lessons and setting expectations for students. We know that we cannot replicate nor cover all of what traditionally is done in a classroom through distance learning. We also know that generally middle and high school students are more independent than our elementary students, and there will need to be differences in the depth of content and skill coverage across levels. We are noting these differences, course to course and grade to grade, and will address them as we create school re-entry plans for the range of possibilities. Teachers are focusing on the most important learning goals and competencies for the subjects and grade-levels they teach.

### **High School Update**

Dr. Higgins sent a message this week regarding the senior prom and graduation, "In preparation for our end of year events we have secured alternate dates for our senior prom and graduation. We are continuing to plan for other year-end events like induction ceremonies and senior awards. As of now, we have secured an alternate date for our senior prom of July 23 at the Grand Marquee in Old Bridge. We have also secured an alternate date for graduation of August 5 at CURE Insurance Arena in Trenton. These two alternate dates will serve as our Plan B for these two events. In a situation where we are still not allowed to congregate during those dates, we will develop a plan C, which will most likely be a virtual, socially distant, or automobile type graduation at some point over the summer. There are many ideas and suggestions out there and the administration will make the best decision for the safety of our students and staff while still allowing our seniors to experience the traditions they deserve."

### **MTHS Environmental Action Club**

Prior to the schools being closed, the MTHS Environmental Action Club planned the 1st Annual Eco-Night, which is a student-powered, student-organized environmental research fair. In place of a physical event, the students transitioned to a digital format and are proud to announce that they have gone live on their 1st Annual Eco-Night. We hope that you enjoy viewing the event, which represents months of hard work from the EAC Executive Board, Event Team, and most of all, the student exhibitors from across the Monroe Township School District. <https://mthsnjeac.wixsite.com/econight2020>

And finally, this week marks the beginning of Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak to all who celebrate.

Have a wonderful weekend and stay well!

Dr. Alvich

Superintendent of Schools