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Dear Parents,

I first want to say thank you for your enduring perseverance during our turbulent and challenging spring. Although Gov. Murphy's announcement on Monday, May 4, that all New Jersey schools must remain closed for the remainder of the school year gave us an answer to the question looming for weeks, it brought for many a feeling of deep sadness about the losses of so many end-of-year events and traditions.

While the spring sports season has been canceled, while concerts and plays, class trips and picnics cannot take place, other traditions and milestones **will be celebrated**. Just as we have had to make adjustments to our day-to-day lives since mid-March, we will have to make adjustments to our upcoming celebrations.

Our principals at each grade level have been working with one another for the past several weeks to address end-of-year events and to be sure consistent solutions will be offered across each grade level – elementary, middle and high school.

For our High School Graduations:

An in-person graduation ceremony on June 16 is not feasible under current mandates by both the state of New Jersey and the state of Pennsylvania (the location of the Liacouras Center venue). Instead, we are making plans for a two-part approach for the high school classes of 2020:

1. A virtual graduation ceremony for each high school will be filmed in advance and will air at the originally designated time (11 am for High School West and 4 pm for High School East) on June 16, 2020. The ceremony also will be archived and available on the District YouTube channel for later viewing.
2. An in-person graduation ceremony, in accordance with any social distancing mandates, will be scheduled for August 6, 2020, at a venue to be determined.
3. The High School West and High School East PTAs are considering their options for Project Graduation.

More information about these events will be sent to all graduates' families within the next 10 days.

For Senior Prom:

We are unable to hold the scheduled High School Senior Proms on June 4, 2020. We are researching several venue options in the hope Senior Proms can be held in August 2020. An update

regarding plans for our Senior Proms will be sent to seniors' families within the next 10 days.

For our middle school graduations:

We are exploring options for a virtual graduation ceremony for each middle school that would be filmed in advance and would air on June 15, 2020. We also are reviewing the logistics for an in-person event later in the summer. More information will be sent to all 8th graders' families within the next 10 days.

For clap outs:

We will be unable to hold "clap outs" at our elementary school buildings. Instead, when schools are reopened in the fall, our middle schools will hold "clap ins" for their incoming 6th graders. Details about the clap ins will be shared with incoming 6th graders' families later in the summer. We are exploring options for a virtual clap out for our graduating seniors. We will be surveying our seniors as part of the decision making and planning process.

For pickups of belongings and medications:

A plan with dates and times for picking up students' belongings and medications from our buildings will be sent to all parents within the next 10 days.

Please understand that the safety of our students and their families comes first in all decisions regarding these events. We understand and share your desire to be together, in person, and we will hold in person events only if it is safe to do so. Circumstances may change in the coming months and new directives from the governor may require a change of plans.

As the parent of a senior at Cherry Hill High School West myself, I share in my daughter's disappointments this spring. At the same time, I am making every effort to show her that we are strong enough to handle these disappointments and move forward with joy about all she has accomplished and all that is ahead of her. I hope you will join me in showing empathy toward your children, while leading them forward in a positive way.

Regards,



Dr. Joseph Meloche
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools