

SOUTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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June 22, 2020

Dear South Brunswick Families,

Well, we did it! We, meaning all of us. If there was ever a need for the home school relationship and partnership, it was these last three months. The schools did remote instruction and you became homeschoolers. The success for your children became far more dependent on your actions than ever before. The bottom line is that we couldn't have had any success without you, and on that note and on behalf of the entire South Brunswick School District, we thank you!

I also want to thank you for your understanding and even more so, your constant sharing of appreciation for our staff. This wasn't easy and we weren't perfect, but you never made us feel that way. You continued to lift our spirits with kind notes and words throughout this time. It helped more than you know. We still have more to learn and will be spending time this summer building and constructing even stronger models for how we can manage any remote learning that will be necessary, as well as how to incorporate what worked into our regular programming. We learned a lot about what did and didn't work and will be stronger because of it. Your feedback throughout has gone a long way and as we move into the summer, we expect there will be more positive outcomes.

What would be awesome right now is for me to be able to say that this chapter is closed and we are heading into a normal summer, which will be followed by a traditional September. However, you all know that would not be true and that it could be a while away from that thing we call normal. While most of this paragraph just keeps me up at night, there is much to be said for coming back to something that may not be as traditional as we are accustomed to.

Let me explore with you for a moment what we do expect to be different, but hopefully in a good way:

- Our plan is to ensure that every child has the access to the technology and internet needed to do remote learning if need be. When we come back to school in full for in-person learning it is our expectation to have a 1:1 device in every child's hands in grades 3-12. More to come on this important work.
- We learned how to better involve our community for large workshops and meetings and we will be able to continue in these models for the future.
- We learned that we can accomplish anything. We learned that our students are pretty special and I am hopeful that each of you has taken stock in your gifts as homeschooling parents. Remember, we did this with no playbook, no guidance and rather used instinct, experience, knowledge and fortitude to make it through this craziness. Kudos to you families!

I could go on with our wins, but let's take a look at what is to come, as I believe you want to know what is happening in September. While I cannot answer that in full, I can make sure you are aware of what we are planning and how we will keep you in the know throughout the summer.

1. We are planning to be in remote for most if not all students in September. I hate even writing that, but I am a realist and while I am going to hope for the best case, I have to expect and plan for the worst case.
2. We are going to be working insanely over the summer to get the doors open, **BUT ONLY IF WE CAN DO SO SAFELY!** I believe we will have opportunities to open for some, but there are a lot of factors to consider. We are building a “phase-in” model that will provide you with more detail on what this can look like. Of course, everything is dependent on the health conditions of the state and the Directives of the Governor and Department of Education. Just know we are planning and will be ready!
3. We plan to continue to listen to families. One thing I have learned in my career is that the people who are impacted by decisions need to be involved in the thinking about what is to come. So be on the lookout for opportunities to share and provide feedback over the course of this summer.

I will end by once again thanking each of you for partnering with the District over these last three months. We truly could not have done it without you. More to come and for now, enjoy the summer and make the most of the next few months!

Be well and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'S' followed by a horizontal line.

Scott
Superintendent of Schools