

May 5, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I'm writing to update you on the latest news regarding how Bergenfield Public Schools are responding to the Covid-19 crisis.

On May 4, 2020, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced that the state of New Jersey will continue social distancing by continuing distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year which will officially end on June 22, 2020. Therefore, by state mandate, Bergenfield Public Schools will NOT BE reopening for in person instruction during this school year.

For many in our community, the governor's announcement may bring feelings of disappointment and loss as we will be unable to come together to celebrate many traditional end-of-year events in person. I will certainly miss these ceremonies that usually fill us with pride as we celebrate our students' remarkable accomplishments.

Please be advised that our school principals are working hard to develop alternative safe ways to celebrate important traditions such as moving up, academic awards, and graduation ceremonies. Our principals will communicate future plans for alternative celebrations once they are finalized.

We also understand that most students and staff have left personal items in the schools and we are working to develop strategies to safely get those items back to you. Again, your principal will communicate this strategy to you once the plan is finalized.

We are sympathetic to the disappointment many will feel upon learning that we will not be returning to school. Still, one of the most important lessons we can teach our students is that, in life, we must learn to put first things first. Our utmost priority now and always is the safety of our staff and students. Nothing is more important, and no rite of passage is worth risking the loss of even one of our beloved community members.

Once again, I applaud you for your adaptability and courage as we navigate circumstances that represent new territory for us all. I once read a quote that stated: "Courage does not always roar, sometimes courage is that small voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow."

We will continue to be courageous and try again tomorrow until one day soon we are back together celebrating with Bear Pride knowing our Bergenfield family is safe and sound. We will roar back while that little voice confirms "It was difficult, but we got it right!" That will certainly be something to celebrate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Tully

Superintendent of Schools