



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Office of the Superintendent

Michael LaSusa

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June 8, 2021

Dear Parents and Staff Members,

ధన్యవాదాలు شكرا لك Hvala ti 谢谢 Dėkuju tak skal du have
Dank u Merci Vielen Dank Σας ευχαριστώ આભાર धन्यवाद Grazie
ありがとうございます 감사합니다

Thank you

ధన్యవాద Tak skal du ha متشكرم Dziękuję Ci Obrigada Mulțumesc
Спасибо Gracias நன்றി Salamat teşekkür ederim
Дякую شکریہ ধন্যবাদ Aguyje Aguyjevete ndéve

We have seven days remaining in the school year and the above is an attempt to say thank you in every language spoken in the homes of our students. I apologize if I have missed any, but please know that I am thankful for everything you have done to keep our schools moving forward this year. It has been imperfect and I do not know anyone who has agreed with every decision I have made over the course of the past 16 months. But we are where we are now and our school system has remained open every day of this year, with the exception of one week after the December break and a couple of hiccups at the secondary level. This was possible only through the hard work and understanding of everyone in the school community.

If not for our secretaries, professional teaching and support staff, principals and administrators, custodians, technology staff, paraprofessionals, board members, supervisors, counselors, nurses, maintenance staff, parents, grandparents who helped supervise “virtual” time, coaches, substitute teachers, Work-Family Connection staff, bus drivers, crossing guards, central office staff, cafeteria staff, other important individuals I may be forgetting, and our STUDENTS--who rolled

with everything the year threw at them--we would not have endured the way we have and the year would have been even more imperfect.

As of this moment, schools continue to operate under the same mask, health screening, and quarantine protocols outlined in executive orders issued by Governor Murphy. Masks become optional in extreme heat and while exercising, which is why our PE classes have been mask-optional this week, but according to Department of Education and Department of Health officials, masks remain a requirement in instructional settings unless the heat is so extreme that it poses a health risk to the wearer. Therefore, unless there is new guidance issued in the next week or conditions change so as to pose a health risk, masks will remain a requirement inside our schools through the balance of the year.

This coming Friday we will host one of our signature year-end events: our annual [TEDxYouth@Chatham](#) celebration. For the second straight year, we will stream the event and anyone in our community can [register to watch it](#). Beginning next Monday, we will begin to wind down the year with materials collection and other tasks. We will not hold virtual hours after school next week and the final two days of the year we will hold only single sessions of kindergarten and Pre-K. Our principals will communicate schedules as necessary at the individual buildings. Finally, next Thursday we will host high school graduation. As Mennen Arena is not available this year, we will hold the ceremony at Cougar Field at 4:00 pm. Traffic and parking will be very challenging, so please plan accordingly if you have a graduate or if you plan to drive in the area next Thursday. We will stream the graduation live from our website as well.

I hope that you are able to take a breath after June 17 and do what you enjoy. I anticipate a relatively normal school year next year, but will update you as soon as the New Jersey Departments of Education and Health spell out and confirm what our operating parameters will look like. The rules have evolved over the past year, and I am sure they will continue to do so, but I think we can expect a normalish year in 2021/2022.

I wish you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mike LaSusa