



Public Schools of Edison Township

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Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Daniel P. Michaud
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June 15, 2020

Dear School Community Members,

As the 2019-2020 school year comes to a close and our seniors prepare for graduation, it is apropos to pause and reflect on the year that has just ended. This has been a school year that no one could have predicted and yet somehow, we were able to successfully navigate these unique difficulties and provide a sense of normalcy for our students as we mitigated the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to thank our entire school community for coming together quickly as the decision was made to transition to remote learning for all of our students. This required a tremendous effort on the part of our teachers, administrators, support staff, and perhaps most importantly, our parents. We have always viewed our parents as partners in the education of our students, but the extent to which their support was needed during this time to meet with success has been unparalleled. This notwithstanding, perhaps the group of people who deserve the highest degree of credit is our students; they were the ones who felt the greatest impact of this pandemic, and it was they who needed to adjust their daily practices the most to make this work. And they did so remarkably and with the attitude that exemplifies all that makes our community great. This was a year like no other, and yet we were able to finish strong and provide the best educational programming possible for our students. I am proud to be the leader of such a fine community and school district, with a Board of Education committed to providing the supports needed for success.

Our graduating seniors are to be commended as they complete their tenure in the Edison Public Schools. We plan to honor them with virtual graduations for each high school occurring at 4:00 pm on June 16, 2020. In addition to this, a community-wide effort to "make noise" will occur at 2:30 pm on June 16, 2020, to celebrate this unique graduation. Please join our police and fire departments in participating, if possible. In accordance with our Governor's Executive Orders, we are also planning in-person graduation ceremonies at each high school in July, adhering to the social distancing parameters and prescribed guidelines for gathering limits in place at that time. We have prepared for a number of options for ceremonies at John P. Stevens High School on 7/21/2020 and Edison High School on 7/23/2020. We will provide more specific details as the dates approach with the guidelines in effect at that time.

As we prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year, many things still remain in limbo. We await direction and guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education and the Governor's Office. The administrative team is planning for all possible scenarios for the start of school in September, but much will depend on the guidance received from the state Department of Education, the status of the COVID-19 virus and infection rates, and the Centers for Disease Control protocols. Please check our website regularly for updates. We remain committed to providing the best education possible for the children of our community. As we have said repeatedly, we will come through this difficult time better than when we entered it. We will continue to shine bright Edison 🌟!

Be well, and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Bernard F. Bragen, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Nothing Less Than Excellence