



# ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 2019

Dear Rockaway Borough Parents and Families,

It is with great anticipation that I welcome you back for the 2019-20 school year and my third year as Superintendent of Rockaway Borough Schools. The first day for students, district wide, is Tuesday September 3, 2019. I look forward to seeing them as well as you and of course, the start of another successful academic year and educational partnership.

The past two months have been extremely busy here on the Rockaway Borough campus with a multitude of projects focusing on facilities as well as curriculum and instruction. Besides the routine cleaning and preparation of both Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson Schools, our maintenance staff has tackled a number of targeted physical upgrades to all buildings, necessary outside upkeep, some sprucing up of the interior areas, and the creation of some new instructional spaces like the TJ library and Makerspace to better support instruction and student engagement. Whether it is a fresh coat of paint, a new play area or some new flooring, I think you will be pleased with the overall outcome.

In the line of curriculum, I am very happy to report that we will be continuing our 1:1 Initiative started last school year. Through the initiative, all district students will have regular access to individual technology devices with 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders taking Chromebooks home and 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders as well as students in kindergarten- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade having designated and ample devices for everyday use. In addition to regular curricular updates across all content areas, we are also once again expanding our ST Math Program, implementing a new grade level math program for grades 6-8, introducing new Health books, and upgrading our Renaissance platform to better support assessment, instruction and progress monitoring for staff.

This coming year, in addition to our returning faculty, the district will be welcoming a number of new staff members to fill open, but also newly created positions. At Thomas Jefferson, we have hired a full time reading specialist to help with interventions and expanded World Language instruction while at Lincoln, we will be expanding the position of our Guidance Counselor. District wide, our Class III officer, Mark Rogalsky will be joining us for a second year and we look forward to another year of collaboration with him and of course, the Rockaway Borough Police Department in our constant efforts to ensure the safety and security of both students and staff.

While three district goals have already been set involving (1) the integration of Social Emotional Learning for all grades (2) the use of technology and digital means to increase communication district wide (3) the commitment to obtaining Future Ready Status for both schools, I will continue personally to increase overall communication with all stakeholders, increase knowledge of professional learning strategies for staff, and also to become familiar with all aspects of our district facilities, in particular **our upcoming referendum which will be voted on Tuesday September 24th**. To support all these goals, I will be creating a new Superintendent's Newsletter that will be disseminated through e-mail as well as working with both principals and the administrative staff to re-configure our overall newsletter platform as well as revise our district website.

With that said, thank you in advance for your support and confidence and of course, best wishes for a wonderful school year!

Sincerely yours,

*Phyllis Alpaugh*  
Superintendent

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE DISTRICT REFERENDUM, PLEASE SEE THE FLYER ON THE BACK SIDE OF THIS LETTER!**