

FROM THE DESK OF Phyllis Alpaugh



SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Rockaway Borough Schools
June 2020

EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURE SUPPORTS THE EARLY START OF PROPOSED REFERENDUM PROJECTS

[CLICK HERE TO GET AN UPDATE ON HOW THE DISTRICT IS CONTINUING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE REFERENDUM](#)

MOVING FORWARD in the BOROUGH for the 20-21 SCHOOL YEAR



With the 19-20 school year coming to an official end, I would like to take the time to thank everyone, students, parents, staff, Board members, community stakeholders, and local officials for all their support, help and cooperation offered and rendered throughout the year, but especially these past few months. Closing school in March could never have been predicted even a month before, but became a necessity to ensure the safety of all concerned as the Corona virus spread and became a potential health issue in our state and country. While we were literally thrown into distance learning, I am extremely proud of students, their families and our staff for rising to the occasion and making the best of an extremely difficult situation. Within a short amount of time, we quickly learned that quarantined life and all it involves, can be very stressful, challenging and taxing for all concerned. While we have clearly learned much and hopefully been successful, there is still much to learn as I feel moving forward distance learning will play a major role in the future education of our students.

As we begin the summer and looking ahead to the 20-21 school year, there is much planning and consideration to be taken of what that will look like. **Currently the district has formed a Reopen School Committee composed of a variety of school and community stakeholders to undertake that very challenge with the overall hope and belief that we can reopen in September.** This of course, however, will depend on many factors, the safety and well being of students and staff being the number one priority, but also the guidance and direction from the New Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Health, the Governor's Office, local health officials as well as the district's ability to successfully comply and deliver instruction safely and efficiently to all students. Six areas in particular will be driving our work and include the following:

1. Wellness- the physical and emotional support of students, their families and staff

2. Curriculum and the Delivery of Instruction as well as the delivery of all special and related services
3. Facilities--proper disinfecting and sanitizing of all facilities and ways to adhere to proper social distancing
4. Governance--attendance, enrollment and use of human resources
5. School Operations--school calendars, schedules, finances, transportation and meal distribution
6. Technology-availability of devices, access to technology and the use of digital platforms.

As we consider each of the six areas, we will also be planning for what they look like in four different educational scenarios as directed by the NJ DOE so we will be potentially prepared and ready in regards to future health situations around the state as well as state and local mandates.

- All students in the physical building
- Some students in physical buildings with some virtual
- All students virtual
- Intermittent virtual

So as you can see, we have much to do in the coming months to try to get us "back to school" , and properly prepared to safely deliver instruction and serve the students and their families in Rockaway Borough. We will most certainly keep you informed of our progress and look forward to our start in September. To help us make informed decisions, could you please take a few minutes to complete the following survey so we can take your concerns and needs into account.

[REOPEN SCHOOL SURVEY](#)

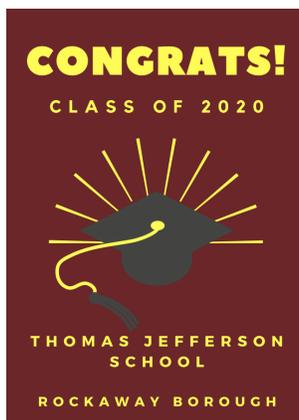
(This is the same survey appearing on the latest parent communication on our district website so please respond once per child.)

Please have a wonderful, safe and restful summer. The administrative staff including myself will be working over the summer. If at any time, you have a question or concern, don't hesitate to contact us. Also, I will continue to use this platform to share information regarding the opening of school in September. As of now, the 2020-21 school year officially starts on Tuesday September 8th. Let's hope this start remains firm moving forward.

[Rockaway Borough 20-21 School Calendar](#)

Best wishes always,
Phyllis Alpaugh

Congratulations & Best Wishes to the Class of 2020!



I would be remiss without sending my congratulatory wishes and a large round of applause to the Class of 2020. It has been a very interesting, but difficult year for them due to COVID -19 and the abrupt change to their anticipated 8th grade year. While much loved and traditional 8th grade activities, trips, projects and gatherings had to be cancelled due to the virus, the class as a whole persevered and ended their tenure in the district on a positive note. Needless to say, they have proved themselves to be a very versatile, well accomplished and congenial class that will be remembered for many things including academics, sports, the arts, service, and leadership besides the Corona virus.

I have known many of these students, some since kindergarten, and have watched them grow to become capable, mature and responsible young men and women, so I will certainly miss them as well as look forward to hearing about their future endeavors. We all hope that in the coming weeks or months, we can somehow join in person to celebrate their graduation together.

SUMMER OF 2020

What's on the Calendar in the Borough?

While the 2019-20 School Year has ended, the district will be running a number of virtual programs as well as conducting necessary registrations throughout the summer months. Here is a list of what is scheduled to date:



- Extended School Year (ESY) for invited students begins Monday June 22nd and runs through Friday July 29th depending on the designated program.
- *Summer Rebound* our newly created Summer Enrichment Program will be held virtually during the month of July on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for recommended students.
- The last day for on-site meal distribution will be Monday 6/15. After that date, the summer program will start on Tuesday June 17th with distribution at various sites in Dover. Please see the attached flyer for the [Summer Meals Program](#).
- Kindergarten and Preschool registration for 20-21 also continues on online. Use the following link to obtain more more information. [Kindergarten registration](#)
- Online registration for possible fall sports will take place through the Family ID website.. Parents may use he following link to begin the registration process. [Sports registration](#)
- The district will conduct its annual re-registration for students entering 3rd and 6th grades virtually sometime in July. Once all details have been finalized, information will be sent to parents along with any necessary links.

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOLS www.rockboro.org



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