BRIGANTINE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Where Everyone is Someone

August 20, 2020

Dear Brigantine Families,

It is with a heavy heart as your school leader that I present this letter to you. The objective of the administrative team, Board of Education, and community committees from the very start of the re-entry process was to not only exceed the minimum requirements from the New Jersey Department of Education "The Road Back" guidance, but also to make it the best possible plan for our Brigantine Community. All challenges presented were thoroughly discussed and addressed by our entire administrative team as well as by our Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. I strongly believe that the plan we presented and approved at our last Board of Education meeting did just that. However, it was noted and stated several times in that presentation that anything could change at any moment as new information is presented from the Governor, Department of Education, and/or the Department of Health.

Today, two crucial pieces of information came to our attention, which is why we will be starting the school year fully remote on September 8th. We will continue to evaluate and plan for a re-entry date on/or before November 11, 2020, the end of our first marking period for the 2020-2021 school year.

First, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education, we are unable to fully staff the physical building to protect the health and safety of all students and staff. The second crucial piece of information in regards to changes came to us in discussion with the Atlantic County Department of Health. It was stated that for the safety of all students and staff, they must be at least 6 feet apart or more at all times, and that barriers and/or masks cannot be used as substitutes. This includes prior to boarding the school bus at the bus stop, while on the bus, and in the school building at all times. These ever-evolving changes along with inconsistent guidance from Trenton have placed us in a situation that we had hoped we would not have to face.

As a parent and school leader, I am disappointed that we are unable to open in person on September 8th, but I am confident that our remote plan of everyday virtual learning with direct instruction will be a leading institution for others to model from. Please know that we are passing this information to you immediately, so that parents can promptly set up childcare if needed. We stand as one and will remain strong through these challenging times. Please stay well and reach out with any concerns you may have.

Yours In Education,

Glenn Robbins

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