May 29, 2020

Good afternoon Brick. This is Dr. Farrell with another weekly message.

As May comes to an end, the anticipation and excitement for June begins to build. June will be filled with opportunities to recognize our students at all levels through virtual celebrations. Additionally, each high school is planning a variety of events to celebrate the Senior Class of 2020. Plans and timelines for the upcoming events will be communicated by the high school Principals, Mr. Kleissler and Mr. Barresi. Finally, we are pleased that the Governor lifted restrictions on outdoor gatherings providing the Senior Class of 2020 the opportunity to have an in-person graduation ceremony after July 6th. At this time, we are still awaiting detailed guidance aligned to the allowable outdoor gathering and social distancing guidelines that will need to be adhered to in order to provide a more detailed plan for the in-person Senior Class of 2020 graduation ceremonies at each high school. We have been working on plans in anticipation of receiving the guidance from the Governor, NJDOE and the Health Department. We look forward to being able to share our plan for the in-person Senior Class of 2020 graduation as soon as that guidance is received.

Information regarding the virtual 8th Grade Promotions and Award Ceremonies will be communicated by the LRMS Principal, Mr. Campbell and the VMMS Principal, Mrs. Kotsianas. The Elementary School Principals will communicate with each of their school communities regarding their virtual 5th Grade Tributes.
Building Principals will also be communicating, throughout the month of June, information regarding the return of textbooks and pick-up of personal student belongings. Additionally, at the conclusion of the school year, procedures to return Chromebooks will be sent out via Blackboard, the classroom teacher, and the Principal.

Kindergarten Online Registration is now open! If you have a child who will turn five years old by October 1, 2020, please go to our website to register for kindergarten. The entire process is online including the directions to upload all required documentation. The step by step directions are posted on the website, and tech support is available if needed.

The Preschool Lottery will be live streamed on Monday, June 1st, starting at 6:00PM. Parents and Guardians who successfully completed the Preschool Lottery registration process received a letter with their child’s lottery number in the mail. Parents and Guardians, whose child has received a lottery number, can access the link to view the live stream on the district website. The link will be posted on Monday, June 1st, at [www.brickschools.org](http://www.brickschools.org).

A Special Education Parent Meeting will take place virtually on June 3rd from 6-8pm. The Director of Special Services, Mrs. Kristen Hanson and her Department Supervisors will be presenting on such topics as; Extended School Year, Remote Learning for Special Education Students, our Special Education Parent Advisory Group, Evaluations, and Child Study Team Services. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting and receive the link, please respond by completing the form in the Parent Portal.

We are busy preparing for our virtual Summer Programs at this point. Those students who qualify for Base Program and Jump Start have received an invitation and are encouraged to register. This summer, we are excited to be able to offer an enrichment opportunity for our
students. Students will be invited to stay socially and emotionally connected by participating in a variety of virtual club offerings based upon student interest. During the week of June 15th, we will be sending out a google survey so students can register for these clubs, which will begin the week of July 13th. Online subscriptions for programs like Math IXL, Lexia, and Achieve 3000, will continue to be available for our students during the summer. Students who continue to use these programs will receive weekly recognition for their efforts. Additionally, we are encouraging all students to read books that interest them and will provide recommended book lists. At the Secondary Level, we plan to offer online supplemental support for students who are enrolled in our STEM Academy and AP courses to help them complete recommended summer assignments.

John Quincy Adams once said, “Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.” Thank you for your continued patience during this time of uncertainty. Together, I know, we will persevere and emerge from this unprecedented time a stronger and united Brick!

Stay Safe & Healthy Brick!

Dr. Thomas G. Farrell

Superintendent of Schools