



MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL

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Dear MBS families,

Greetings to all of our MBS families! I sincerely hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy during this difficult time. Like all of you, I am anxious to return to our normal lives in every way. Although I am staying optimistic about the possibility of opening school and welcoming everyone back, I honestly do not know exactly when that will happen. For now, I continue to work with the staff to try and move forward with learning and doing what we can to keep everyone connected with our school.

Knowing that the end of our third marking period is this Friday, April 3, I want to update everyone on the direction we will be taking as a district with regard to report card grades. I will state right up front that there is no ideal solution given these circumstances. I have participated in several meetings with my fellow superintendents as well as curriculum directors and supervisors from many other districts in Monmouth County to get an idea of how this issue is being addressed in other places. I have also met with all of the teachers in our school to discuss the options with them and get their feedback as well.

At this time, we have decided to hold off on posting report card grades for the third marking period because of the amount of time that has been missed this quarter since school closed. Provided that we are able to resume the school year at some point this spring, the teachers will transition back into their routines including their assessment and grading practices. The plan is to use the assessment data from the time that school was open during the third marking period and combine that with the assessment data that will be collected from the time school reopens until the end of the year. As a result, the students will receive grades for three marking periods this year instead of four. In order to facilitate this change in Real Time, grades PK-4 will simply have a blank field for the 3rd MP. Students in grades 5 - 8 will receive the comment "NG" that will mean "no grade" for that time. The teachers will then assign the grades at the end of the year for the 4th MP. The final, end-of-year grades would then be based on the average of the three MP's instead of the usual four MP's.

The above plan is based on our hope that school will eventually reopen this spring. If all schools are required to remain closed for the remainder of the year, then we will revisit our plans and discuss other options. If we are forced to cross that bridge, then a follow up notice will be sent to all families with an updated plan when the time comes.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me by email with any questions or concerns you may have and please continue to do your part to keep everyone safe and healthy!

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore