



MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL

7 Hastings Place, Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750-1199 • Phone (732) 222-6139 • Fax (732) 222-2395

Michael Ettore, Superintendent
Joshua DeSantis, Assistant Principal
Peter E. Genovese III, Business Administrator

www.mbschool.org

April 27, 2020

Dear MBS Families,

Greetings to everyone in the MBS community! I hope this letter finds you and your family doing well and staying safe as we all continue to make our way through the Covid-19 crisis. In keeping with my practice of hosting Google meetings with the teachers each week, I did so this past Friday to get updates across all grade levels and our special area staff as well. Overall, the updates I received were very positive and it seems like most people returned to the routines associated with remote learning that had been established prior to spring break. Knowing that remote learning will continue until at least May 15 and very possibly through the end of the school year, the entire staff continues to explore and consider new ideas and resources that will possibly expand the level of engagement with our students. One such step that is ready to be taken will be to enable the cameras on the student chromebook computers to allow teachers to officially host Google hangout meetings with their class and/or with groups of students. As it stands, the students have the ability to see the teachers but the students are not able to see their teachers in real time unless they are using some other device. Knowing that so many of our students are using other devices for this purpose, the Board of Education and I agreed that it is time to move further in this direction. In order for families and students to take this step, parents will need to give consent and agree to monitor chromebook usage in the home in order to uphold the expectations set forth back in September for acceptable technology usage. The consent forms will be sent home via email this coming week to all families in grades 1 - 8 since the students all have a district-issued chromebook in each of those grades.

Looking ahead, the time will quickly come for me to make decisions regarding the various end-of-year events that are scheduled. As much as I have been trying to stay optimistic about being able to reopen school at some point this spring, I am rapidly becoming more practical and accepting the reality that there is a very real possibility that MBS will remain closed for the remainder of the year. As we all know, that decision rests with Governor Murphy and we hope to have his final decision on this situation on or before May 15. For now, I ask for your continued support and patience.

As we continue to face the challenges associated with remote learning and social distancing, I encourage families to maintain some type of routine in your homes that will benefit the children as they continue to work remotely with their teachers. In each of my teacher meetings, I stressed the importance of staying connected with the students in order to give them some level of meaningful interaction that is sorely missed from not being in school. It is my hope that the use of Google hangout meetings on a larger scale will make this more possible.

For now, please take care of yourselves and your families and do not hesitate to contact me if needed for anything at school.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Ettore

Michael E. Ettore
Principal/Superintendent

