



MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL

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Dear MBS Families,

Although my weekly update letter is a little later than usual this week, I am glad that I held off on sending this out for multiple reasons. For starters, you have probably heard by now that earlier this week, Governor Murphy made the decision to keep all schools closed for the remainder of the academic school year. As much as this is truly disappointing, especially for high school seniors and eighth graders everywhere, I believe this was the right decision for so many health related reasons. As a result of this decision, remote learning will continue between our teachers and students until we reach the end of the year in June. Speaking of, at the April Board of Education meeting, a calendar change was approved due to the fact that none of our three snow days were used this year. As a result, the new final day of school is set for June 17.

Now that the decision has been made to keep schools closed, we will need to adjust our original plan with regard to report card grades. In the coming weeks, I will be discussing this topic at length with the teachers and then with the Board of Education during our May committee meetings. Once the revised plan for report card grades has been finalized, I will send out a notice to all families that will address this issue. For now, please continue to support your child/children at home and maintain the routines you have graciously established to help the learning process move forward.

The final portion of this letter is dedicated to sharing some personal news. For the past seven years, I have had the privilege of serving Monmouth Beach as the principal of the school and the superintendent of the district. Since my arrival in the summer of 2013, our school has become a 21st century learning environment with the advent of our 1:1 chromebook initiative, replacement of all classroom Smart boards, renovation of the Library/Media Center and Tech Lab along with the formation of a hands-on learning space in the courtyard area. More importantly, new positions such as our Reading Support Teacher, full-time Guidance Counselor and Technology Coordinator have been created to help our students meet with academic success while also focusing on their social and emotional needs. Those positions coupled with a reconfiguration of our middle school math placement process, our MBS Enrichment Program and the start of the Academic Support Program have made it more possible to meet the diverse needs of our students. If you include the opening of our all-purpose room addition and the recent resurfacing of our recess blacktop area, then it is fair to say there have been improvements made inside and outside of this beautiful school!

The news that I am struggling to share is that this will be my last year at MBS. Earlier this year, a professional opportunity arose that was appealing to me for many reasons, so I decided to pursue a new position. I share this information with you now because later today, a special Board meeting is being held in Little Silver where I am scheduled to be appointed as the new Superintendent for that district. Realizing how quickly news spreads in the world of social media, I wanted to make every effort to be the first person to make you aware of this change. As of now, I am not sure when my last day will be in MB, but I fully expect to stay in my current position until the end of the school year and likely through some part of the summer. Prior to my departure, I will continue to work with the staff to wrap up the school year in the most productive way possible and also create teaching assignments and class rosters for next year. Additionally, I have given my commitment to the BOE to be directly involved with the 8th grade graduation event that we will eventually have for the Class of 2020.

For now, please know how much I appreciate all of the support, kindness and trust that I have received during my time in MB. This school community is a special place for so many reasons. I have no doubt that this wonderfully dedicated staff will continue to work collaboratively with the families of MB to give the students every opportunity to learn, grow and succeed.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore

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Principal/Superintendent