



# MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL

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Jessica L. Alfone, Superintendent  
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[www.mbschool.org](http://www.mbschool.org)

July 24, 2020

Dear Monmouth Beach Families:

It is with great enthusiasm that I extend my hand in partnership to you as the new Superintendent/Principal of the Monmouth Beach School. I am honored to be part of your school community and hope to continue the long-standing tradition of excellence that exists while also seeking to rise to new heights. I am regretful that my first formal communication with you is in the midst of a public health crisis. Unfortunately, it is not ideal, however, it is necessary so that you have perspective on our plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

As a parent of young children myself, I understand and appreciate how much trust you place in the hands of the school and how essential the school community is to the emotional and academic growth and development of our students. In recent months, we have all witnessed how crucial our brick-and-mortar buildings are in the education of our children. The absence of the normalcy that the typical school experience brings has really impacted our children, and school community, in many ways. This, coupled with the uncertainty of what the new school year may look like, have been sources of concern for many parents, educators, and students. Therefore, I want to provide you with some general information so that you are aware of our plan moving forward.

First, I want to thank you for your participation in our *Reopening of Schools Survey*. This information was critical in driving our Reopening of Schools Task Force's planning process. Within the New Jersey Department of Education's release of the guidance document *The Road Back* on June 26, schools were tasked to develop, in collaboration with community stakeholders, a plan to reopen schools in the fall. This guidance also required that the plan include some form of in-person instruction and operations in the fall barring any change to public health. The Governor recently announced that parents will also be able to select a fully virtual option should they have concerns about their children returning to the school building.

Fortunately, being a small community school, we do not have many of the significant challenges that larger schools and districts are faced with. As a result, I am thrilled to announce that we will be able to offer all of our students on-site, in-person, full-day instruction this fall following our regular school schedule. Of course this return will be coupled with new health and safety procedures that will ultimately protect our staff members and students, such as temperature screenings, social distancing, and mask wearing, when necessary. Although we are cautiously optimistic about a full on-site return in the fall, we are also creating a very robust remote learning option for our students should public health change and we are required to provide instruction virtually, students or staff members fall ill, or there is a need for quarantine. Our plan will also provide equitable access to instruction for those that are hesitant in sending his/her child(ren) back to the school building in September and instead select the all virtual option.

To provide you with detailed information about the specifics of our reopening plan and to also afford you an opportunity to ask questions, I will be hosting a series of parent forums at the school in August. The schedule for these forums can be found below. If the weather is agreeable, we will meet outside on the black top and only move into the gymnasium if need be. I ask that you please wear a mask and practice social distancing if you plan on attending one of the events. For those of you with multiple children, you will only need to attend one forum. Those who cannot attend, or wish to remain virtual, please contact me via email at [alfone@mbschool.org](mailto:alfone@mbschool.org) so I can provide you with an electronic invitation to the virtual forum.

## **PARENT FORUM SCHEDULE**

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Parents: August 11 (6:30 pm)

Grades 1 and 2 Parents: August 12 (6:30 pm)

Grades 3 and 4 Parents: August 13 (6:30 pm)

Grades 5 and 6 Parents: August 18 (6:30 pm)

Grades 7 and 8 Parents: August 19 (6:30 pm)

Virtual Forum all grades: August 20 (6:30 pm)

In the interim, we ask that you please ensure that all of your child(ren)'s immunizations are up-to-date and that you begin to practice sustained mask wearing with your child. Although children will not be masked all of the time, they will be required to wear masks when they cannot practice social distancing. Within the next week, we will also be sending you information so that you can update your emergency contact information prior to the start of school. It is important that this information is accurate in the event we should have to contact you during on-site instruction due to illness or other emergencies. Please include additional emergency contacts that are accessible in a reasonable amount of time should the need arise. Finally, I am also requesting that if you have the intention of opting for your child to remain virtual for the start of the school year, to please contact the school and let us know as soon as possible, so that we can plan accordingly. If selecting the virtual option, you will need to commit to at least one marking period. This will provide consistency, but also allow for us to reevaluate situations as we move through the school year.

Throughout the summer we will continue to monitor public health and collaborate with the New Jersey Department of Education and the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission to make decisions that prioritize the health and safety of students and staff. As we all know, this is an ever-changing situation and therefore, our planning has to provide us with flexible options to be responsive and still afford our students access to high-quality learning opportunities. There is a great deal of uncertainty about the reopening of schools in general. These public health circumstances have challenged us in ways we could have never imagined and have put us in positions of seemingly impossible choices, at times. However, I am confident this community will continue to rise to the occasion and work together to create the best educational experiences possible for our students in September.

One final piece of information that I am excited to share is that we have hired a new Assistant Principal/Supervisor of Special Services. His name is Mr. Christopher Harris, and he comes to us with a wealth of experience in many areas with particular strengths in Educational Technology and Special Services. We are excited for Mr. Harris to join our school community.

Again, I want to extend my gratitude for your input into our reopening plan. As we move forward into the new school year, it will be important that we maintain open channels of communication to ensure that we are all working together in the best interests of the school community. The staff and I are extremely excited to welcome all of our students back to the building in September. I am looking forward to meeting you all in person, and please do not hesitate to reach out if I can help you in any way or answer any questions you may have before then.

Be well,

***Jessica L. Alfone***

Jessica L. Alfone  
Superintendent/Principal  
Monmouth Beach School