

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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June 18, 2021

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Community Members, Faculty and Staff,

We made it to the last day of the 2020-2021 school year! This is a year to remember, not because of the challenges we faced, but because of the way our district rose above them to ensure that we continue to support every student, every day at every opportunity.

Congratulations to all of our students, including our graduating 8th-graders who will soon enter high school; our 6th-graders who will transition to J.P. Case Middle School; our 4th-graders who will make the leap from their elementary schools to Reading-Fleming Intermediate School; to our kindergarteners who celebrated a special milestone year; and all of the students who are moving up a grade next year. All of us here at Flemington-Raritan Regional School District are so very proud of each and every one of you and for all that you have achieved this school year.

The last day of school is always a special time to look back and reflect on the year we shared together. We could not have overcome the obstacles we faced without the cooperation, patience, dedication and support of our beloved students, our outstanding teachers and staff members and our wonderful parents. Allow me to take this moment to share my sincere appreciation with all of you. I salute you; I applaud you; I commend you; I thank you. We would not be the exemplary school district that we are today without the collaboration and partnership of everyone of our Flemington-Raritan family members. I am grateful each day to serve as your Superintendent of Schools

At the time of the publishing of this letter there were 212 responses to the Flemington-Raritan School District Safe Reopening plan that was shared [this past Monday](#) in my letter to parents. Of those that responded, 93.7% were parents, with the remaining percentage being either staff, faculty or community members. Respondents shared the school they identify with in the survey. Of those that responded, 50 parents are from Barley Sheaf, 42 from Copper Hill, 37 from Francis A. Desmares, 48 from Robert Hunter, 72 from Reading-Fleming Intermediate School, and 53 from J.P. Case. The remaining responses were either from a private school, a preschool, or other. There were 138 comments submitted by survey participants.

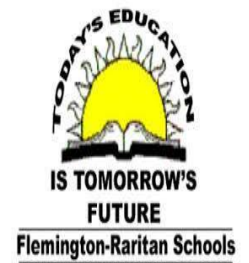
Of those that responded, 60 percent disagree that staff, students, and visitors will be required to wear face coverings at all times unless alone behind closed doors or socially distanced outside. Governor Murphy signed legislation and an executive order ending the COVID-19 public health emergency legislation, the majority of executive orders issued pursuant to the public health emergency will expire on July 4th. You can find information about that Governor's release [here](#). The governor has reduced the restrictions by ending the immediate public health threat of the virus and we are thrilled for our planning for September to welcome all students, faculty, and staff back to school.

COVID-19 Update:

Each week, the Department of Health provides information on the COVID-19 transmission at the regional level published through the CALI report. This week's COVID-19 report shows our Central West region remains in the "yellow." Other regions in our state, the Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest are all in the "green" with case rates, percent CLI, and percent positivity rates determining the CALI score of a 1, which indicates a low activity level or in the "green." Our Central West region includes Hunterdon, Mercer, and Somerset counties. The [Hunterdon County COVID-19 Dashboard](#) reports countywide daily increases. The state's COVID-19 Activity Level Index Weekly Reports are all linked [here](#). This week's activity level report is [here](#).

No new positive COVID-19 cases were reported in the district this week. A current count of reported COVID-19 cases is posted on the [District website](#). To find the current count of reported COVID-19 cases visit the district

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homepage and click on the headline that reads Current COVID-19 count. The chart is updated by the end of each day in which a case is reported to the Superintendent.

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Support:

When COVID-19 struck, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and New Jersey's regulated water, gas, and electric utility companies swiftly agreed to a voluntary moratorium on shut-offs to both residential and commercial customers during this unprecedented situation. While there is still a moratorium on shut-offs, the amount due to the utility companies continues to increase. Many families across New Jersey continue to struggle to pay their utility bills, some for the first time as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19. While the number of people in arrears has grown dramatically over a typical year, the amount of people enrolling in energy assistance programs has not increased at the same rate. The NJBPU encourages anyone who is behind on their bills to contact their gas and electric company to set up a deferred payment arrangement. The State of New Jersey through the NJBPU and the Department of Community Affairs have several programs available to help families in need. The brochure on assistance programs, linked below in English and Spanish, have all of the details or you can call 2-1-1 or visit these links: [Do You Need Help With Your Home Energy Bills?](#) The link in Spanish is here: [¿Necesita ayuda para pagar sus cuentas de energía?](#)

Raritan Township Community Day:

I am excited to share that our District will be participating in the annual Raritan Township Community Day, which will be held at Lenape Park on September 25 from 12-4 PM. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, September 26, 12-4 PM. This year's event will feature additional food vendors and a car show. Please look for our District's booth at the event and stop by to visit us. We are honored to be a part of this long-standing tradition in our community. For more information, contact Karen Gilbert, at karen.gilbert@raritantwpnj.gov.

In closing, please know that we will be working hard throughout the summer to continue to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. Communication will come regularly from my office to our community to keep parents, staff, and faculty updated on our referendum work and school reopening plans. We look forward to a full calendar of events, activities and special moments as we focus on returning to our traditional school schedules. Our 2021-2022 district calendar is [linked here](#). In the meantime, I hope every family enjoys a safe, healthy, relaxing and fun summer. We can't wait to see our students again when they return to school on September 8!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools