



East Moriches Union Free School District

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July 2020

Mr. Daniel J. McKeon
Superintendent of
Schools

Mr. William Holl
Middle School
Principal

Mr. Edward Schneyer
Elementary School
Principal

Ms. Michele Pepey
Director of Special
Education/PPS
Supervisor

Ms. Emily Eich
Curriculum
Coordinator/Assistant
Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing with a brief introduction as well as an update on our plans for the 2020-2021 school year. The 2019-2020 school year was certainly one for the ages and the challenges that it created necessitate a moment of thanks and appreciation for all the hard work that parents, students, and staff put into making it as successful as it was. The vitality of the student/teacher/family connection proved to be very strong. Collectively, we have learned a lot about teaching, learning, technology, dealing with frustration, and dealing with change. Our students, teachers, and families adjusted to setbacks and united to form a cohesive unit that provided support and guidance in uncertain times. Jointly, we as a community had to adapt and adjust to change.

For the East Moriches School District, change was not limited to the way curriculum was delivered, change also occurred when Dr. Russo announced his retirement, and I was selected by the Board of Education as his successor. As a member of the community since 1986, I am no stranger to the reputation and high standards that our district is known for. I am honored to be associated with the greatness that is the East Moriches School District. This district is a direct reflection of the community that it supports. It is tight-knit and thrives on tradition and excellence. Under my leadership and with the unending support of the Board of Education, we will continue that pursuit of excellence and we will stay the course in the direction of success. I am honored to be a member of the EMO professional community and I look forward to working with you and your families for years to come.

The first task that we will tackle together is developing a reopening plan for September 2020. At this point, we are awaiting guidance from the Governor's Office on what September will look like. Despite the lack of formal guidance, the District Safety Team has been meeting throughout the spring and summer to develop a variety of plans that will ensure a safe, sanitary, and welcoming reopening. The team is made up of parents, teachers, building principals, mental health staff, a member of the Board of Education, school nurses, and a physician. Please know that every decision that is made will keep in mind the needs of the students, staff, and families. That said, the guidance from New York State will be concrete and will be the rules that we must follow. However, we will make every effort to individualize our plans to fit the needs of the district. As a unit, the District Safety Team will build a program that not only meets the high standards of the district but also keeps the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of our students at the forefront as we realize that this is the most important function of our job.

The timeline for information release from New York State is aimed for the middle of July as well as the first week of August. As this information is released, we will be sure to keep you updated by utilizing the school website, Twitter, email, and Connect-Ed messages.

I hope this information provides some peace of mind. Rest assured that we are all in this together and we will emerge from these unique times as a stronger and more unified district than ever before. Please enjoy the balance of the summer and we look forward to providing more information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Daniel McKeon
Superintendent
East Moriches UFSD