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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to an unusual yet exciting new school year! We are thrilled to be welcoming students to the 2020-2021 school year in a virtual setting. When I was growing up, going back to school in the Hart household had rituals and routines. Similarly, back to school for my preschool boys means talking about their new teachers, anticipation of meeting new friends, and getting a special haircut! As a child, I cherished these moments with excitement and now I am hopeful I am providing the same for my sons. I realize this year is unusual and unexpected, but I urge all parents to maintain those back to school routines for your children. Talk about the new year with your children; read them a book about first day jitters, discuss ways to make new friends, come up with a routine together to make this year a great one, and maybe even get that special haircut. This will provide children with a sense of normalcy that is so needed during this troubling time. I read an anonymous quote that stated: "The best things happen unexpectedly." Let's take this unexpected time and make it awesome!

As you look forward to the year, I would also like to extend an invitation for you to join me at my virtual Superintendent Coffee Chats. As I did last year, I will be hosting four (4) meetings where parents can come and hear about various school topics in an informal way; however, this year we are planning to discuss these topics via Google Meet. The meetings will be held according to the following schedule:

- October 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- December 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
- February 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- March 31, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

My office will send out reminders prior to each date along with potential topics and the Google Meeting invitation. I hope to see you there!

This year we will continue to offer our Parent Academies. The first one will be hosted on September 8, 2020 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. to allow parents to learn more about our virtual learning tools. The other date is January 26, 2021. The January topic will be announced at a later date.

Summer is quickly coming to an end. Please enjoy these last days of summer by enjoying the beautiful weather and spending time with family. We look forward to greeting our Readington students through our technology platforms on September 3. Until then, please remember that our district's mission is to empower members of our community to lead purposeful lives with integrity, to cultivate a spirit of discovery, and to embrace connections in our diverse, global society. I look forward to living this mission with you as the school year gets underway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools