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Dear Readington School Community,

As this school year begins to wind down we set our sights on ending the year strong and planning for September. Currently, district staff and administration are developing ways to celebrate our students at the end of the year. We're planning walks of honor, clap outs, an 8th grade picnic, and of course graduation for our 8th graders. These special events will, of course, be modified to adhere to current guidelines from the Department of Health and the Department of Education but we will ensure our students feel a sense of accomplishment having completed a very difficult year.

Our district has also begun to plan for September 2021. It's hard to believe this date is right around the corner. Governor Murphy has indicated that all schools will be open for full in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. **The Readington Township Public School District is currently planning to have full-days of in-person instruction for all students starting in September.** To date, there has not been any detailed, official guidance from the State of New Jersey regarding operation of schools in the fall but we know we must develop a *Safe Return Plan* per the DOE. In the absence of any true guidance, we are planning for a normal school year with some modifications. For instance, we may be required to offer a virtual instruction or home instruction program for students who are medically fragile or have severe medical conditions. No criteria has been set by the state in regard to allowing for a virtual option but we have come to understand that it may be limited to only student cases of chronic illness. The district does not have any official word on mask-wearing or quarantine for close contact for September. As of the writing of this letter, masks remain a requirement per the Governor's Executive Order 192 and we continue to contact trace positive cases. These protocols will be updated for the fall, as needed. We intend to communicate protocols and procedures once final guidance has been provided to us.

In the interim, the district is also preparing to offer a complement of programs to ensure students are provided opportunities for academic and social/emotional support in the coming months. The programs are described in brief below:

Credit Recovery Program - Over the course of the 4th marking period the staff and administration, particularly at the middle school, are designing programs and action plans to ensure students at risk for failure and/or retention are offered additional support.

Summer Accelerate Learning Program - We will provide identified students with intervention math and language arts virtual home instruction this summer. Our district is in the process of identifying students and parents of those eligible students will receive a letter from the Curriculum Department. This will be 30-60 minutes of intervention instruction several times a week in July.

Extended School Year and Special Education Literacy Programs - As during past summers, we will provide specialized instruction and related services for students based on their IEP. This program has been extended by 1 hour daily to provide remediation for specific skills.

Fall Accelerate Learning Program - Our district is planning to offer an in-person after school tutoring program to eligible students. This program will focus on skill building in math and language arts. We plan to use the fall *Start Strong* assessment administered by the state to assist us in identifying eligible students.

Mental Health Services - The district is currently in discussions with a service provider who will offer specific mental health services to students by providing an additional in-district counselor. We plan to focus these services at Readington Middle School starting in the fall.

The number of COVID cases across the state continues to drop and we are seeing light at the end of this pandemic tunnel. We appreciate your cooperation and resilience as we live our mission of empowering members of our community to lead purposeful lives with integrity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools