

GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 6, 2020

Dear GMRSD Families,

On March 13, 2020, the GMRSD community embarked on an unprecedented journey. It was a trying time for everyone, as Covid-19 upended our lives and redefined "normal," particularly as it applies to education. As I begin this letter, I first want to thank everyone in our community. I wish I could list you all by name because everyone in GMRSD contributed in some way over the last five months. Just know that your patience, cooperation, collaboration, and communication have been greatly appreciated, and will continue to be as we begin the 2020-2021 school year.

As many already know, I was named Superintendent/Director of Special Services of GMRSD on July 22. It is an honor to lead this District, and my commitment to you is to do so by putting students first in every decision made. I wish to thank our outgoing District administration for the leadership and growth on which I plan to build. I also wish to thank the Central Elementary School staff, students, and families for six incredible years of watching our District's youngest students build that foundation for a lifetime of learning. You are all Jaguar Stars!

The 2020-2021 school year will be one filled with challenges and changes, but also with tremendous possibilities. Central School welcomes Melissa Hall as its new Principal. Ms. Hall comes to GMRSD after two years as an Assistant Principal/Interim Principal at Hackettstown Middle School. Prior to that, Ms. Hall worked for nine years in the Jefferson Township School District. A virtual "Meet and Greet" will be scheduled later in August to formally introduce Ms. Hall to the community.

Our reality as we start the year is one that none of us has ever before experienced. Our schedule will be a Hybrid, early dismissal schedule from Monday through Thursday. Fridays will be virtual for all students. Additionally, we are offering a fully remote cohort for those who wish to take advantage. The fully remote students will use the Edgenuity learning management system to advance their learning, with assistance provided by designated GMRSD teachers. Masks will be mandatory for everyone at all times unless it affects the health of the individual. The safety and health of everyone in GMRSD is our top priority as we start this year, without exception.

Looking back at the last five months can be exhausting. I find it inspiring, however, when I think about it in terms of the GMRSD community: teachers working together; parents partnering as educators; students adapting to an entirely new way of instruction; families supporting one another; school staff making home deliveries. This pandemic has brought to light the wonderful spirit within our community. I look forward to highlighting and enhancing that spirit in the days, months, and years to come. I invite you to join me on this ride. It may be bumpy at times, but there is nothing that can slow us down when we are united!

Welcome back to school!

Sincerely,

Michael Mai
Superintendent/Director of Special Services