

# GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear GMRSD Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Quite a bit has changed in the last 12 months. A year ago when I sat to compose this letter, much uncertainty existed when it came to what schools would look like and how to best keep everyone safe while delivering a quality educational program. As with every school district across our state and country, there were bumps in the road and a few detours. However, GMRSD managed to navigate pandemic learning and finish the last school year strong, honoring our students with in-person graduations and a “clap out” that ended with me getting hit with a pie!

Now we look ahead. I have often said that the theme of this year should be “Hit the Reset Button.” Let’s work together to move past the trauma of the last 18 months and start fresh. While we are not entirely finished with Covid-19, we have progressed to the point that schools will be open on traditional schedules for all students. Hybrid, remote, and virtual learning will not be offered this year unless a student is required to quarantine or has been exposed to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19.

Additionally, as per New Jersey Governor Murphy’s mandate, masks will be required for students, staff, and community members when on district property and when riding on a school bus. Mask breaks will be provided, and students will not be required to wear masks outdoors or when participating in rigorous activity in physical education classes. We understand this has become a polarizing topic, so please be reassured that: 1) last year, very few students had difficulty wearing masks all day and we anticipate this will continue to be the case; and 2) these preventative measures lessen the likelihood that we will need to transition to a virtual or hybrid model this year.

In keeping with the “Reset” theme, I have been re-set in the Principal’s office at Central School. It is a privilege and honor to return to this position, helping lead our younger students at the start of their educational journeys. Additionally, I will continue to serve the District as Superintendent and am very excited to take on this dual role.

Before concluding, I wish to welcome all of our new students and staff members and to remind everyone that GMRSD will operate on one schedule for Central School (8:45-3:20) and one schedule for Middle School (7:55-2:30). I would also like to extend thanks to the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education along with every educator, administrator, family member, custodian, counselor, nurse, secretary, and bus driver who supported our students in the last year. The next 180 school days are blank canvases on which we will create, once again using all the colors at our disposal. We are back! A famous singer once said, “Turns out not where, but who you’re with that really matters!” And there is no greater collective than the Great Meadows Regional School District community. Together, we can do anything!

Sincerely,  
Michael Mai  
Superintendent of Schools  
Principal – Central Elementary School