



Dr. Frank Ranelli Superintendent of Schools

September 23, 2021

## **Dear Piscataway Families:**

As we approach the end of September, I want to applaud our students for their cooperation with and consideration for each other, their teachers, and our entire school community. Our students continue to do everything we ask of them to stay safe from COVID. They have shown patience and resilience in mask-wearing, social distancing, lunch protocols, and more.

This year, like last year, while we have had students and staff test positive for COVID, we are not seeing spread within our schools. I want to thank our school nurses and administrators for their efficient work in contact tracing to ensure our students and staff continue to stay safe, and our custodians and maintenance crew, for all of their work in deep cleaning our buildings. We will also continue our daily Dashboard Updates and weekly community notification.

## **Busing**

We continue to experience some difficulties with our bus routes. Piscataway, like many other school districts across the country, is dealing with a shortage of bus drivers. In addition, the Possumtown area street closures have caused a chain effect of bus delays for all schools.

We apologize for the problems bus delays cause our parents and guardians. We continue working with Layla Transportation to be fully staffed with fulltime bus drivers, and are working with qualified substitutes to temporarily fill any gaps. And as more streets are cleared for traffic, we should see additional improvements in arrival times. We will keep you apprised of efforts to improve our bus arrivals and departures.

## **School Nutrition Program**

The September 30 deadline to fill out the School Nutrition Program Application is fast approaching. We encourage all families to fill out this application, as not only does this program help all families who qualify, it also helps the district overall, as some of our federal funding is measured by the number of families who qualify. We are offering free iPad insurance as a thank you to all families who help us in this effort by filling out the application.

Very sincerely,

Dr. Frank Ranelli

Superintendent of Schools