

July 19, 2021

Dear Teaneck Parents/Guardians, Students & Staff,

The last few weeks have been challenging for our school district; but I want to assure you that the Board and I are resolved to work collaboratively in order to open our schools safely in September.

To this end, I would like to provide a preview of some of the upcoming events that will take place during the month of August:

- 1.) **First week of August:** We will issue a survey to parents/guardians regarding returning to school. Although we are planning for a full return per the Governor's direction, we want to hear your thoughts about sending your child/children back to school.
- 2.) **Week of August 16:** As we did last year, I will be hosting Town Hall meetings - one for parents/guardians, one for students and one for staff. These meetings will discuss our reopening plans and we will welcome your important input/feedback.
- 3.) **Week of August 23:** The school principals will host their own Town Hall meetings with specific guidance on reopening at the school level.
- 4.) **Wednesday, August 25:** There will be a Special Board meeting where I will present our Back to School Plan - incorporating the feedback we received from the Town Hall meetings.

NOTE: Our schools are also planning orientation meetings for new students entering specific grades. Please check the school websites for more information.

It is very important that we begin the school year off on a positive, supportive note - remembering that many have experienced illness or loss in the previous year. This will be like no other "back to school" timeframe - which means **patience and compassion for one another will be critical**. It is our intention to spend the first few days focused on reacclimating to the school environment and specifically addressing social-emotional needs.

FYI: The official start date for our staff is Wednesday, September 1 - which will begin with our annual Superintendent's Convocation. The students will return after the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah on Thursday, September 9.

In closing, I want to say that it is my honor to serve as this district's Superintendent. I have experienced the kind hearts of our staff, our parents, and our students. I know that we all want what is best for our children and I am confident that we will rise to the occasion.

I look forward to your participation in the upcoming events. Please continue to monitor our district website for details (specific dates will be announced by the end of this month).

Until then, take advantage of this time to rest up and enjoy your summer.

Best regards,
Dr. Christopher Irving, Superintendent of Schools