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May 29, 2020

Dear Northfield Families,

I hope that this update continues to find everyone safe and well. I am sure no one expected us to be in our current circumstances for so long, but we are persevering and finding the strength, creativity, and resiliency to forge ahead and make this a productive learning experience for our children and ourselves. With that said, I know there has been much talk about issues we have been anxiously awaiting to get guidance about. Please know that we are closely monitoring the continuous and endless stream of guidelines associated with those issues and we are synthesizing the information and sharing it with you as quickly as possible in a manner that will be clearly understood.

One of those issues is the allowance to have modified in-person outdoor commencement ceremonies. Yes, graduation! While the headlines state that they are allowed, we are working through the detailed guidelines and restrictions to ensure that we are able to provide the most memorable and safest graduation experience allowed by the executive orders in effect. As such, we are not yet able to share our plans for our 8th grade graduation, but we will as soon as we can.

Another issue is the planning process for our hopeful return to school in September. As you might imagine, this is a process that will take much planning and coordination. To ensure that our plan is compliant with the aforementioned guidelines and restrictions, we are assembling a committee of stakeholders inclusive of administration, teachers, Board of Education members, and community members, to name a few. The work from this committee will be shared throughout the process as appropriate.

Currently, we are working on preparing for the end of our school year. This includes returning personal items that were left in the school at the time of our closure. I would like to thank everyone for working with our teachers and administrators, as this has already started. The coordination of this and the cooperation our families have shown in this process has been nothing short of miraculous. Information regarding the collection of textbooks and technology devices will be forthcoming as we get closer to the end of the school year.

I will close by sharing that the phrase, “it takes a village to raise a child” has never rung truer than it does right now. We truly could not do what we do for your children without your support. On behalf of our teachers, administrators, and our Board of Education, I would like to thank each and everyone one of you for believing in us, trusting us to do our jobs, and helping us to do everything possible to help your children grow and reach their fullest potential.

Respectfully,

C:\Users\pbretones\Desktop\signature.jpg

Pedro P. Bretones

Superintendent of Schools