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June 12, 2020

Dear Northfield Families,

We are officially in the home stretch of what has certainly been the strangest school year anyone can remember. I cannot stress how proud I am of the way we have all been able to pull together to make this the best experience possible for all of our children. This was most evident during the sign parade that took place on Wednesday. Though it was an event for our 8th grade students, it epitomized the coordination and collaboration between our teachers, parents, PTO, administration, and non-teaching staff that happens every day for every child in every grade. As Superintendent of the Northfield City School District, I was privileged to see it in action and humbled to see the joy it brought to our students.

I am glad to share that as a result of this week’s announcement from Governor Murphy about the increased number of group gatherings to 500 people by July 3rd, we will be able to offer our 8th grade students a modified in-person graduation ceremony. The ceremony will take place at Mainland Regional High School and we are coordinating efforts with them to provide our own ceremony for our students. We anticipate having a firm date for the ceremony by early next week, but anticipate that it will be in early July. More details about the ceremony will be shared when plans are finalized. Since a July date is later in the summer than normal for a graduation ceremony, we will still have the previously scheduled drive-by celebration and virtual awards ceremony to recognize our 8th grade students in case some families cannot attend the modified in-person ceremony in July.

W are working on programming for our general education students for the end of July. This program will seek to provide instruction and activities to help interested students a chance to make up any learning loss as a result of the in-person school closure and “summer slide.” More information regarding this program will be shared in the future so that we are able to tailor the program to the guidance in effect at the time that we are able to offer it.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform everyone that the Summer Camp Program offered through our Community Education Department will have to be cancelled this year. The guidance for Youth Summer Camps that was released this week make it impossible for us to offer a program that would allow the students to engage in a meaningful camp experience. Additionally, due to severe restrictions and personnel requirements imposed by the guidance we would not be able to offer a safe environment for our children and staff.

I want to offer everyone a safe, healthy, and normal summer as we enter the last week of school. What we have overcome is nothing short of miraculous and it was only possible because we stayed in touch and worked together. As such, we will continue to communicate throughout the summer with periodic updates, but I encourage everyone to continue to visit our website for the most current information and resources. Just because the students will be off for the summer does not mean we are. We are always here for them and you so please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Enjoy your weekend!

Respectfully,

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

Pedro P. Bretones

Superintendent of Schools