



HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Office of the Superintendent

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Dear Members of the Herricks School Community,

I had the wonderful experience today of participating in the Searingtown Elementary School car parade. It was great to see all of the teachers, staff members, administrators, Board of Education trustees and parents participating together in dozens of brightly decorated cars. As the parade snaked through the neighborhood, it was heartwarming to see so many parents, grandparents and students out in front of their homes cheering on the parade with warm messages of gratitude. It was a truly special, heartwarming event that I will never forget. This is what I mean when I speak of the strength and unity of the Herricks School Community!

It appears as though the warm weather has finally arrived. With it is the opportunity to get out of the house and enjoy being outdoors. While this is certainly a good thing and will be a welcomed opportunity to help relieve the stress of staying home, it is important to remind your children about maintaining our social distancing protocols. Doing so is essential for keeping our children, families and community healthy and safe. We have greatly reduced the impact of the pandemic in our region and do not want to go backwards.

We have been busy planning for virtual end of year events, which you will be receiving more information about from your child's school. At the same time, we are beginning to plan for the upcoming school year as well. This planning will be comprehensive, and will include issues related to health and safety, supporting the social, emotional and academic needs of our students, and planning for the possibility of continued remote learning in some form. We are hoping for the best, but are planning for various contingencies. To date, we have received little guidance from the state education department about the reopening of school in the fall. Hopefully, some guidance and protocols will soon be forthcoming, and we will be having planning conversations at the district, county and state-wide levels.

We need all voices to be heard on the important matter of planning for reopening. Please participate in a statewide virtual conversation sponsored by BOCES on this topic. You will be able to read and rate other participants' responses. Based on those ratings, the most important thoughts will rise to the top. All contributions are anonymous. This is a statewide exchange facilitated by the 37 New York BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services). The exchange results will be shared with our elected officials so that they will have a more global understanding of the thoughts and ideas our community members have about returning to in-person schooling. I encourage everyone to use the link below to share your thoughts and help evaluate the critical issues. If English is not your first language, there is a translation feature.

The Thought Exchange link can be found at: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/333518046> Your BOCES is Nassau BOCES; I urge you to participate.

There is one more item I would like to share: Memorial Day is on **Monday, May 25**. This is a holiday for everyone and no remote learning will be scheduled on this day.

I hope that you have a safe and enjoyable weekend! Thank you and stay well.

Regards,

Fino M. Celano, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools