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August 24, 2020

Dear Families of James Monroe Students,

Welcome back to 2020 - 2021 school year! Although we know this school year will be like no other, the James Monroe faculty and staff are committed to providing your children with the best and safest possible academic experience.

The school year will begin virtually from the safety of your homes on Thursday, September 3rd at 9:00 a.m. Please check our website for grade level [supply lists](#).

Families will be able to pick up all materials including workbooks, technology and teacher resource bags on the following dates and times by pulling up into the front circle of the building and remaining in the car. A staff member will ask you for your child’s name and grade level and then bring your child’s materials to you. Families with multiple children only need to come to one pick up time. All K - 2 students will receive a device.

Material Pick-Up		
Date	Grades	Times
Thurs., August 27th	K - 2nd	9:30 - 2:30
Fri., August 28th	3rd - 5th	9:30 - 2:30

**Please email Mrs. Callahan or Mrs. Tufaro if you are unable to make one of these times.*

On Tuesday, August 25th at 7 pm, visit the Parent Portal to learn your child’s teacher. Information with how to login on their first day, their daily instructional schedule and contact information will arrive in an email soon from the teacher. Our staff will communicate regularly with students and their families through the use of online platforms such as Google Classroom or SeeSaw, and will set clear expectations for each class through online meetings, live lessons, recorded lessons and daily agendas.

Students will be welcomed into their virtual classrooms each morning through daily meetings with their teachers that will foster relationships, develop trust, establish purpose and set a positive tone for the school day.

Teachers across all grade levels and content areas will plan live streamed lessons, based on our district’s rigorous curriculum, which is aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and will meet all students’ needs through the use of ongoing performance data and small group sessions.

Opportunities for social and emotional learning are woven throughout the school day with purposeful read-alouds of culturally responsive texts and lessons that promote understanding, acceptance, resilience and empathy. Our school’s diverse and inclusive population is the key to its success. The Monroe Motto – “Be Respectful, Try Your Best and Choose Kindness” – serves as our guiding principle.

All parents and legal guardians are encouraged to become active members of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). We recognize the uncertainty of these trying times and want to assure you that the James Monroe community is here to assist you in any way. We hope you will join us for upcoming virtual parent support group meetings.

As accessible and approachable school leaders, assistant principal Mrs. Maggie Callahan and I think of your children as our own. Our goal is to provide clear and consistent communication to families within the school-community and develop a relationship that allows for a collaborative educational partnership. For more information about the school year, please view our [Parent Guide for Remote Learning](#).

Please let us know if you have any questions. Best wishes for a safe and successful school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cynthia Tufaro
Principal