



HERRICKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Education Today
Knowledge Forever**

Office of the Superintendent

Fino M. Celano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
fcelano@herricks.org

June 4, 2020

Dear Members of the Herricks School Community,

I think we can all agree that 2020 has been quite a year so far! We have been dealing with the difficult challenges of the pandemic, school closures, sheltering at home, and the resulting devastating impacts to our economy. In addition, more recent events in the news have highlighted continuing national issues related to discrimination, and the need for justice and equality for all. Healthy discussions about these issues and peaceful demonstrations are part of the American experience, and will hopefully lead to positive change. Unfortunately, acts of violence and looting in cities across the nation have marred these constructive efforts.

Educators and parents alike should consider these troubled times as teachable moments for our students and children. It is important to remain hopeful and optimistic in the face of these challenges. There are very positive signs with respect to the pandemic and our region is soon approaching phase two of Governor Cuomo's reopening plan. Scientists are becoming more optimistic that a viable Covid-19 vaccine will be available in record time, possibly by the end of the year. The national dialog about issues related to racism and discrimination will hopefully lead to real and lasting societal change. In addition, hopefully, living through these daunting challenges will result in our children becoming more resilient and better equipped to deal with adversity.

Of course, you are not alone. While currently schools are not in session, we remain available to provide support as you speak with your children during these teachable moments and stressful times. I have attached resources that have been created by the District's mental health professionals. Please review these resources and consider reaching out to any of our school psychologists, guidance counselors and social workers if you need further assistance.

Know that we are all here for you. Please feel free to contact any of us if you need anything.

Regards,

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