Back to Mahwah Public Schools

To the Students, Families, and Staff of Mahwah Public Schools,

It is with great excitement that I welcome our Mahwah community to the start of another great school year!

I know a welcome-back letter can bring mixed emotions. Some of us are excited for a new school year filled with opportunities, new experiences, and possibilities, while others are hoping to hold on to these last few weeks of summer just a little longer. **Both can be true.** I hope everyone continues to enjoy this well-deserved break and finds time to relax, recharge, and spend time with family and friends.

At the same time, there is tremendous excitement throughout our district as we prepare to build upon the great work that took place last year, and continued throughout this summer.

The district has been incredibly active during these summer months. Our summer programs and camps have provided students with opportunities to continue growing as learners, athletes, and individuals. A large number of our high school students are also participating in internships and externships with organizations locally and throughout the New York metropolitan area, gaining authentic, real-world experiences that connect their learning to future possibilities. These are exactly the types of opportunities we want for our Thunderbirds as they continue to **extend their wings and reach beyond the classroom.**

As we enter the new school year, we remain committed to the values that have guided our work: continuing to **CONNECT** as a community and doing **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to support every student. At the same time, we are ready to move forward with the next phase of our journey through the **2025–2030 Strategic Plan: The Flight of the Thunderbird.**

We have much to be proud of, but we also recognize that our work continues onward. Progress should be celebrated, but it should also inspire us to keep moving forward, challenging ourselves, and creating even greater opportunities for our students.

I encourage everyone to take a few moments to review our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan to learn more about the direction of Mahwah Public Schools. I also invite you to review our 2025–2026 End-of-Year Strategic Plan Review, which highlights the progress made during the first year of this important work.

As I have shared in the past, **this journey cannot be taken alone.** Our students are most successful when our schools, families, and community work together. That partnership is essential to ensuring that every student feels supported, challenged, connected, and empowered to reach their full potential. We look forward to continuing that partnership throughout the year ahead with you.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank our extraordinary staff and administrative team. Their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to our students make everything we do possible. Because of their efforts, Mahwah Public Schools continues to provide an educational experience for which our entire community can be proud.

We look forward to welcoming our **staff back on August 25** and, most importantly, opening our doors to our **students on September 1**.

Until then, enjoy the remaining days of summer. Spend time with the people who matter most, recharge, and get ready for another exciting year together!

We are proud of how far we have come, excited about where we are going, and ready to collectively continue **The Flight of the Thunderbird.**

Warmly,

Michael DeTuro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Mahwah Public Schools