



June 15, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

With only a few days left in this school year, I want to thank all of our Ridgewood Public School families for partnering with us during this unprecedented time. Together, we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic and a sudden shift to remote learning, and more recently, we have witnessed the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, which has ignited national self-reflection on racial injustice and a call for change. As a school district, we have considerable work to do over the summer. Our first priority is to determine how we can bring our students and staff back to school in a safe and educationally sound manner. We will also continue to evaluate the successes of remote learning and areas for improvement should any instruction in this format be necessary during the coming school year.

Equally as important, we need to reflect on how we, as a school district, address and learn from the powerful and necessary dialogue that the world is having about overt, covert, and unconscious bias. This is an extraordinarily challenging time in our community, state, and nation, and it will require all of us to learn and grow from our collective experiences to help us get through both the pandemic and race relations crisis. While all of this may feel overwhelming, we should be proud of how we handled the societal closure during the pandemic and the respectful protests that occurred in Ridgewood and in most places around the world.

This will be my last update during the school year; however, as we receive clarification and guidance from the state, I will send periodic updates over the summer about our reopening plans for September. If your child needs assistance during the summer, please reach out to your child's school principal.

I wish everyone a healthy summer, a safe return to work and economic recovery, and time for meaningful discussion with family and friends to help us learn, change and grow.

MESSAGE FROM THE BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Below is a link for Bergen County Mental Health and Community Support Resources accessible during COVID-19.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uGScaPLOCn5UZzbJ7xjOTRY8OLz9lyV0/view?usp=gmail>

During this summer, support our local businesses. As all our local businesses start to open up, please consider making your purchases from a local small business instead of going to your favorite online store.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

