

To the Manasquan School Community:

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and you are enjoying a restful summer. As we are reaching the end of July, Manasquan High School and Manasquan Elementary School remain as busy as ever. Both buildings are hosting summer programs aimed at enrichment and remediation. Projects are underway on both sides of the streets including renovations to the performing arts facilities in both buildings, new tennis courts at the high school, upgrades to classroom paint and flooring, as well as other infrastructure improvements. As is the case every summer, our custodial, secretarial and grounds staff deserve a tremendous thank you for the tireless work they are undertaking to make sure the schools are in perfect shape when your students return in the Fall.

The past two school years were, to say the least, unique. We strived to provide as normal an environment as possible for our children to learn in and are proud of the results and growth our students showed in the face of adversity. As we prepare for the new school year, we want to address a few of the more frequently asked questions that have been received by the superintendent's office.

First, our current plan is to continue the optional use of masks by all students, staff and visitors to our school buildings. Current guidelines from the State allow for Districts to make this determination. Up to date State level guidance is available at: [nj.gov/education/roadforward](https://www.nj.gov/education/roadforward). As you may be aware, we finished the 2020-2021 school year with face coverings optional and were successful in the safe and effective implementation of this policy.

Secondly, indoor air quality will remain a priority for the District. We will continue the use of MERV-13 filters in all our HVAC equipment. All windowless rooms have been outfitted with an air purification system. We also plan on upgrading multiple components of the Elementary School HVAC system including air handling units, heat exchangers and exhaust fans. We have had great success in providing a safe place for our students to learn by providing excellent ventilation and air turnover in all our instructional and office spaces.

From an instructional perspective, the pandemic and associated closures and quarantines have undoubtedly caused gaps in learning. Our teachers, supervisors and administrators have worked hard to identify those gaps on the individual and class level. Remediation and learning acceleration will be a focus of our instructional program as students return to school. Additionally, supports surrounding the social and emotional well-being of our students have been developed to ensure their mental health needs are appropriately met.

Finally, both schools will be operating at full capacity, full days, five days a week. Having our students in our schools and in front of our teachers has been a priority of the school district throughout this pandemic. We continue to maintain the belief that in-person learning is the most effective way for students to learn and will be unwavering in our efforts to keep all students on a regular school schedule.

As the summer moves on, you will be receiving communications from your school principals and teachers on the specifics of your students' schedules, teachers, course assignments, etc. As

you will see, our intent is to operate schools as they were operated prior to the pandemic. Students will be traveling from class-to-class, using lockers, and otherwise experiencing a normal school environment. Of course, if you have any questions about the upcoming school year, do not hesitate to reach out. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Yours in education,

Frank Kasyan, Ed.D.