



Kimberly J. Schneider, Ed. D.  
*Superintendent*

June 16, 2020

Dear MCSSSD family,

As we move through the month of June with celebrations bringing a close to this 2019-2020 school year, I would like to share with you our plans for upcoming activities and ceremonies.

On July 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, Mercer High School will host an outdoor graduation ceremony that honors our 42 graduating seniors (rain date July 21<sup>st</sup>). The ceremony will follow all guidelines established by Governor Murphy's office, NJ Department of Education and our local health department as they pertain to outdoor graduation events. Students will wear caps and gowns with Mercer High School's colors, they will receive their Certificates of Completion, they will each receive a generous gift basket, and they will have an opportunity to pose for pictures at the conclusion of the ceremony. This will be a festive event that celebrates and honors all our graduates' accomplishments, albeit in a socially distanced way.

Also, at our most recent Board of Education meeting, we approved our summer extended school year program to be held on a virtual basis only as an onsite start would be problematic. It is important that we support our families in the healthiest learning environment possible as we await NJDOE guidance for a healthy school-based restart. Considering our many enclosed spaces for our children who exhibit complex medical, social, emotional and behavioral needs, we await further discussion with our colleagues at the Department of Health. We continue to work closely with the NJDOE to prepare for September, identifying several key areas of concern: transportation, social distancing and masking requirements. Our school administrators have reviewed several plans that may provide for a safe return and we look forward to sharing those plans with you in July.

Enjoy your Summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly J. Schneider".

Kimberly J. Schneider, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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