



*Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown*

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Peter M. Friedman Building

54 Main Street

Englishtown, NJ 07726-1329

(732) 786-2500

(732) 786-2542 FAX

jmarciante@mersnj.us

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Governor Murphy announced today that schools will remain closed until June 30th. While the announcement was not unexpected, it is sad that the typical closure activities we have come to enjoy and expect at the end of a school year will be impossible under current social distancing guidelines. Principals have been working on the components of virtual moving up ceremonies as well as a virtual 8th grade graduation. The Department of Education has promised that it will be developing additional guidance for these activities in the near future and we will adjust district plans as that guidance becomes available.

We will continue with virtual/distance learning for the remainder of the school year. As I am sure you have observed, as time goes on our teachers are finding new ways to engage your children and assist in their learning. I continue to be amazed by our teachers ability to adapt to this new virtual world we are all expected to live in. I continue to struggle with Google Meets and remembering to turn on my mic when I want to speak.

There are also other mundane tasks that occur at the end of the year that we will be addressing in the near future. These tasks, such as the cleaning out of lockers and desks and returning textbooks and chromebooks, will have to be done within the social distancing guidelines. These procedures are currently being worked on by administration and will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

As I have said before, this pandemic is like nothing else that we have experienced in our lifetimes. In many ways it has been defined by loss. For some it is the tragic loss of a loved one or friend to the disease. For others it is the loss of the joy that comes from the social contact of being with family, friends and even co-workers. For all of our students it is a different kind of loss. The academic instruction will be made up but the experience of the end of an academic year, especially if you are in fifth grade or eighth grade will not be the same no matter what we try to do to make it special. I graduated from Pine Brook School in 1968 and all I can remember is that it was hot. I am sure the eighth grade class of 2020 will remember these last four months for the rest of their lives.

Stay healthy.

Sincerely,

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools