

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you and your families are all well. These are certainly “different” times for all of us. Each age group faces different situations and modifications to our “pre-Covid” situation. The closing of our schools changed the dynamics of this “humanistic” profession. Although we all keep up with our responsibilities, maintain compliance for our children/school/district, the “Zoom” meetings do not replace the daily human connections – the spontaneity of our engagement nor the observations of the total child – class, recess, lunchroom and walking to different classes. As your child’s current Superintendent, that is what I miss the most – just informally talking and watching my kids. I know they love it when I visit classrooms – I have a tendency to disrupt.

Our teachers – our teachers - highly effective and engaged – authentic in their serious and moral intent to take care of our kids. Our teachers have embraced the current situation and are thinking ahead to the reopening of our school. We all want to return to our school – our school, although virtual, we are still the Califon School – we may be spread all over the community, each Chromebook offers a connection to what our children have known as their school - a connection.

Memorial Day – I encourage you to take a walk and visit our bridge and the center of town to view the Eighth-grade Graduation Banner and pictures of our graduates – we are so proud of these fine young ladies.

Be well - be safe,

Johanna Ruberto

Interim Superintendent

As we prepare for the last day of school, the following information is offered:

Dates

- Kindergarten Round-up – Posted this week

- Formative Assessment Window - May 26 through June 4, 2020
- Eighth Grade Graduation – June 9, 2020
- Kindergarten Graduation – June 10, 2020
- Last day of school – June 10, 2020

Reopening

- Yes, we will reopen. On May 20, 2020, the CDC posted new guidelines for schools, childcare providers and camps. Please review

- <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/strategies.htm>

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- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Schools-Decision-Tre e.pdf>

- Checklist for Parents

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/schools-checklist-parents.pdf>

- The Califon School “Reopening Committee” was established two weeks ago. The committee consists of teachers, student support services, a BOE member and a parent. At this time, all information related to reopening has been shared with the committee members. Upon receipt of more definitive guidelines from the NJDOE and our local agencies, plans will be finalized.

- Upon receipt of formal information from the NJDOE, it has been determined to survey the faculty, staff and parents/guardians.

- Anticipated supplies have been ordered.

- Ventilation system is being assessed.

Califon District Web site offers current information <https://www.califonschool.org/>

- Resources – Posted on the web site
- Alternative Learning Plan – Updated May 14, 2020

- Pre-K Registration
- Registration (Residents/Tuition Students)
- Kindergarten Round-up
- Budget Presentation 2020 -2021

Parental Concerns/Observation

Please contact any of the following staff members (Continuous monitoring of our emails):

- Individual Teacher
- Principal: dpatton@califonschool.org
- Student Counselor: csullivan@califonschool.org
- Nurse: lpatterson@califonschool.org
- Superintendent: jruberto@califonschool.org

Eighth-grade Graduation

- The traditional graduation will be maintained to honor and recognize both the graduates and the legacy of our fine school
- The graduation will be virtual with additional celebration in alignment with Executive orders
- Student and parent meetings were conducted prior to this announcement

There are a few surprises!

Chromebooks

It has been determined that the students will keep their Chromebooks during the summer.

Our school campus

As per Executive Order 107, our school campus and building are closed. Necessary and essential facility services are being completed.

Yearbooks

Will be distributed to students in grades K-7 upon the return to the school

The total child - Our focus:

Emotional well-being:

Our Student Counselor, Ms. Christine Sullivan, will continue to visit classes and will be offering "Lunch Bunch."

Ms. Linda Patterson continues to visit classes.

Academics:

Each child responds uniquely to this situation. With respect to each child and our responsibility to instruct, we offer as much individualization of lesson design as possible. Working toward our reopening and the continuous aspect of our observations and student assessment to support individualized learning, our teachers will administer the Linkit! Formative Assessment at some point between May 26 and June 4. Administration has been in contact with Linkit! to ensure the validity and reliability of the data in correlation to the change in the delivery of instruction. This is important to provide us with data focused upon our student progress and will enable our teachers to assess and offer modification to instruction should we be required to continue with virtual learning or the utilization of virtual learning as an alternative. It is important for us to maintain our own assessment of the delivery of instruction and student learning. Yes, we are preparing for our reopening and our kids.

Middle School Program:

Working collaboratively, our teachers will be offering a different schedule prior to the last day of school. Information will be offered to the students and parents by Mr. Patton.

Johanna S. Ruberto, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent

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