



August 30, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Yes, it is that time of year again! August, what I have heard called the “Sunday” of the year! As summer sets to wake to a new school year we begin to ready ourselves for all the 17-18 school year has in store.

This letter marks my first correspondence to you for the new school year and while we reflect on all we shared together, we should set our sights on the many wonderful memories we have yet to create together. This year we will carry on our efforts to serve the students of Rumson and encourage the involvement of students, teachers, staff, parents, and the community in working together as a family! This year we continue our effort in “Igniting Potential” the potential of each student as an individual and all of the students collectively as a school community. Enclosed in this letter is a glimpse of more to come in igniting the potential of our learners by growing, inspiring, and cultivating personal excellence academically, socially, and emotionally.

- **Assignments and Schedules** - Class assignments and schedules will be shared by the building principals. If you have any questions regarding the class assignment and schedule please contact them prior to the start of school but understand much thought and much input went into giving the most appropriate opportunity to our learners. This year our students’ schedules have been built to support continued and new best practices in teaching and learning. New for this school year are:
  - Expanded lunch/recess opportunities to support the wellness and health of our student;
  - Arts A brief PM homeroom period to share announcements, organize students, and debrief the school day; integration into all subjects in Deane-Porter through our partnership with NJPSA;
  - New K-3 science schedule with a science specialist;
  - Increased instructional time in world languages at various grade levels;
  - Year two of a research-based pre-kindergarten program called Tools of the Mind;
  - A focus on project-based learning and child development-focused practices in grades K-2 through participation with the NJ Department of Education and the National Institute for Early Education Research ;
  - A focus on community-based education through 7th grade participation in the Navesink Oyster Replenishment Project;
  - Increased instructional time in world languages at various grade levels.
- **Social Media** - Communication is paramount to our team effort. As a result the administrative team and I have been focused on ensuring continued pathways to share with the community the great teaching, learning, and experiences occurring in the Rumson School District.
  - a. For those of you that use Twitter you can now follow us at @Rumsonbulldawgs
  - b. For those of you that use Facebook you can now follow us at Rumson School District page (there are several- the official one is the one with the picture of Forrestdale School and a Bulldog)
  - c. For those of you that use Instagram you can follow us at bormannjohn
  - d. Please look for a new social media thread from Boomer, our district therapy dog.
  - e. Please check out our website at [www.rumsonschool.org](http://www.rumsonschool.org)
  - f. Blackboard Connect will continue to be used to send out important email and text blasts to parents. There is no need to register for this.

- **Parent/Student Handbook & Opening Paperwork on Genesis-** Your child will be bringing home information on how to access the Handbook and other paperwork for the start of the school year on Genesis. Teachers will review the handbook with students as there are numerous revisions and updates. In order to embrace our team effort we ask that you also review the expectations and information with your child and utilize the handbook as a source of information for Board of Education policies and school procedures. All BOE policies are also posted on the district website.
- **Classroom Interruptions & Security** - Please understand we value the teachers' time with the students and want to do everything we can to support the time they have with them. As a result, we will be working hard this year to minimize classroom interruptions during instructional time. Secretaries have been asked not to call into classrooms during instructional time to provide students with messages or to inform them items have been left in the office for them. We have arranged alternate procedures for students to check on items they may need to pick up in the office or to receive messages left with the main office. Additionally, our office staff will be vetting visitors to the school carefully through strict protocols. While they may be inconvenient at times please understand that they are in the best interest of our students' and staff's safety. When visiting the school during the school day please:
  - Report directly to the main office to sign in and get a visitor's tag
  - Wear your visitor tag at all times and return it to the main office by signing out at the end of your visit
  - Do not tailgate to get into the door or hold the door open for others
 Additionally:
  - For those visiting Deane Porter, we have a receptionist present who will address the needs of visitors
  - Around December we will be redesigning our Forrestdale and Deane Porter entrances to increase security procedures for visitors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those members of Forrestdale and Deane Porter that do not get recognized often enough. They have been an indispensable resource to me and our Rumson school community as we prepare for the opening of school. I hope you join me in showing our appreciation to the custodial staff who have been working hard to prepare the building and grounds for the new school year. They have guided various building projects:

- Upgrades to our existing HVAC systems and water fountains;
- New signage around school grounds;
- Additional Chromebooks, tablets, projectors throughout the buildings;
- Additional upgrades to our DP Makerspace and FD Innovation Classroom (thank you REF);
- Renovation of our Deane Porter Courtyard and Gardens (thank you PTO);
- New staff professional development and curriculum office suite for the district;
- Relocation of numerous classroom spaces;
- New K-3 science laboratory.

As the summer winds down and you ready your children for the new school year, we are also preparing our new staff for the 17-18 school year. The building principals will share further details on these individuals with you and I join them in welcoming these stellar educators to our family:

- Mrs. Lucci & Miss Clarke- Maternity Leave Teachers in Kindergarten
- Miss Agro- Maternity Leave Teacher in Grade 1
- Mrs. Tamashunas- Maternity Leave Teacher for MS ELA
- Miss Bagnell- Grade 4 Teacher
- Miss Minnis- Primary Special Education Teacher
- Miss Nolett- Speech Therapist
- Ms. Carew- Basic Skills Teacher & Coach
- Mrs. Zamorski, Mrs. Regan, and Mrs. Lombardi- Forrestdale Cafeteria/Recess Aides
- Mrs. Harwood and Mrs. Ward- Deane Porter Receptionists
- Mrs. Dougherty- Forrestdale Library Aide
- Mrs. Kerri Walsifer- Supervisor of Guidance Services

In addition, we must all take some time to stop in and thank our office staff for their efforts in addressing all the details necessary for a successful school opening. On another note, I would like to thank our administrative team for their dedication and support in helping me to ensure that this school year elevates the success, safety, and potential of our students. I look forward to continuing to work with them into the school year and commend Mrs. Kerri Walsifer on her transition to her new role as the Supervisor of Guidance Services. Finally, I could not close without thanking all of the dedicated teachers who have taken time out of their summer to work together to plan a great year for the students and community!

As you can see, we are gearing up for a great, new school year; now I invite you, the parents, to join the team to ensure the potential of everyone one of our learners- students and adults- is ignited and burns with fervor throughout the year and beyond.

With pride,

John E. Bormann, Ed. D.  
Superintendent