



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF RUMSON

Forrestdale School • Forrest Avenue • Rumson, N.J. 07760 • (732) 842-0383 • Fax: (732) 219-9458

Office of the Superintendent

John E. Bormann, Ed. D.

August 22, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy First Anniversary! Our second year together will soon start and if you are like me you are wondering where the time went! Ready or not, the summer vacation is drawing to a close and you will soon be packing those backpacks, our students will be making their way through the neighborhood, and the 2016-2017 school year will be underway.

This letter marks my first correspondence to you for the new school year and while the honeymoon may be over we have so many more wonderful memories 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 this effort under our new district brand, "Igniting Potential" (coming soon will be a new logo and mission statement). This brand excites me as it captures the essence of what I have seen unfold since we came together in September 2015- the total revelation of the great potential that is harbored within each of our teachers, administrators, and students! If you have had the opportunity to read Carol Dweck's Mindset you have probably already realized that potential is not fixed but can be grown. I hope you have begun to realize that this is exactly why I am here with you- to grow the potential of our educators, students, and the Rumson community as a whole! So, what do we have in store for the 16-17 school year to grow our potential? Enclosed in this letter is a peek at that answer!

1. 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 schedules have experienced a refinement in order to add and expand learning opportunities for our students. These programs are inclusive of:
 - a daily Morning Meeting time for all homerooms in grade K-8 with additional homerooms with smaller class sizes added in 6-8;
 - dedicated time in each grade level to the teaching of science, engineering, mathematics, and science (STEM);
 - accelerated courses in ELA in grades 6-8, adjusted focus on cluster grouping in 3-5 and differentiation in K-2, and enriched programs to support our gifted and talented population;
 - arts integration into all subjects through our partnership with NJPSA;
 - new 4th and 5th grade science schedule with a science specialist;
 - a regularly scheduled character education period with associated curriculum at all grade levels;
 - professional learning time built into teacher's work day to focus on job-embedded, student-data driven decision-making in the areas of culture, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
 - A new research-based Pre-kindergarten program called Tools of the Mind;
 - A focus on project-based learning and child development-focused practices in grades K-3 through participation with the NJ Department of Education and the National Institute for Early Education Research ;
 - A focus on differentiation practices at all grade levels through our partnership with Dr. Bertie Kingore, Ph.D.
 - A focus on tolerance education through our partnership with the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Education;



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF RUMSON

Forrestdale School • Forrest Avenue • Rumson, N.J. 07760 • (732) 842-0383 • Fax: (732) 219-9458

- new curriculum, instructional programs, and assessment programs in ELA, Mathematics, Early Childhood Education, Science, STEM, Gifted and Talented, Special Education, and Basic Skills;
2. 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. Please look for the revamping of our district website in the early fall!
 - d. Blackboard Connect will continue to be used to send out important e-blasts to parents. There is no need to register for this.
 3. Parent/Student Handbook - Your child will be bringing home the Parent/Student Handbook during the first week of school. 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.
 4. This year we will be continuing our “Take Home Tuesday” for flyers and other announcements. However, new for this year, notification of all flyers will be sent out via an e-mail blast from our digital backpack. No paper flyers will be sent home, except for the opening of school packet. More information will be coming from your principals on this. Any flyers that are to be sent home must be approved by administration and must be sent to the main office of each school by Monday morning. We cannot guarantee flyers submitted after this time will be sent out on Tuesday.
 5. 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.

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 tirelessly working to prepare the building and grounds for the new school year. They have guided various building projects:

- installation of a new gymnasium floor at Forrestdale;
- installation of a new Innovation Classroom (thanks to the REF) at Forrestdale;
- creation of a new STEM Makerspace area at Deane Porter;
- new signage and main office updating at Deane-Porter School;
- new mounted projection systems (thank you PTO) in each classroom at DP and FD;
- additional Chromebooks, tablets, projection screens throughout the buildings (thank you REF);
- clean-up of our Forrestdale greenhouse for future upgrades;



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF RUMSON

Forrestdale School • Forrest Avenue • Rumson, N.J. 07760 • (732) 842-0383 • Fax: (732) 219-9458

- new staff professional development and curriculum office suite for the district;
- relocation of numerous classroom spaces to build grade-level wings;
- new guidance suite area at Forrestdale School.
- new 4th and 5th grade science laboratory.

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. Vera Ridoux on her transition to her new role as the Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. 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 off to a great start for the 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