



District Family:

It was March 13, 2020 when all families received notification that the County decided to close all Bergen County districts for two weeks because of the uncertainty of an unknown virus. Therefore, beginning on March 16, 2020, Maywood shifted to an all virtual platform for what we were told would be two weeks. Little did we know that two weeks would turn into the rest of the school year, which then turned into a hybrid instructional model for the entire 2020-21 school year. I have said from the very beginning that we would get through this and that we would make the best of a horrible situation. It is now 428 days since that email on March 13, 2020, and I simply wanted to say thank you. If not for our incredible staff, parents and kids we would have never seen success the way we have.

Although this has not been a great situation, it has been indeed a situation that people have been great in all that they have done. We have seen short term COVID closures, random tech issues, mental health struggles and a school setting that is simply not what we have grown to know and love. Through it all, we have collectively bought into the process, looked for solutions instead of complaining, and worked tremendously hard as staff and parents to make sense out of something nonsensical for our kids. Satisfied? No. Proud? Yes. Simply put, **THANK YOU.**

It is with that pride in mind that we announce that the Maywood School District will open, and is fully committed to, full time in-person learning for all students to start the 2021-22 school year on September 8, 2021. The shift back to “normalcy” will include a regular class schedule, in person lunch, recess, extra-curricular activities, and before care/aftercare in both buildings. We will abide by State guidelines that we expect to be revised and confirmed regarding masks, distancing, and a variety of other COVID related topics. We will modify and adjust based on changes that we may face. Most importantly though, we will have kids where they belong and where they are most productive, that being in school.

Phase 5 will be a continuation of the same Phase 4 schedule we are working in now. Phase 5 will begin on May 24th and will include a return to school for those “Opt Out” families who would like to return for in person instruction for the last month of school. Specific details will be shared this week.

As always, *WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.*

Thanks,

Michael Jordan

Superintendent of Schools