



# SADDLE BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Danielle M. Shanley**

Superintendent of Schools

June 1, 2020

## RE: School Community Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we turn the corner into the final stretch of this school year, I have many people to thank for the many successes of the 19-20 school year. Let me begin by extending my appreciation to the parents for their continued support and kind words of encouragement, and to the students for their hard work during an unexpected and reimagined virtual learning environment. I am grateful to the administrative team members who have exercised leadership in a way they never prepared for or anticipated. And on behalf of the administrative team, we remain beyond impressed by the many faculty and staff members who have kept education afloat with synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning each day, despite the many challenges we have faced along the way.

There is plenty of news to go around, so I ask you to pay close attention to the many topics below.



### Gathering of Student Belongings

The **principals will be communicating details** of our SAVE the “**BIG Brown Bag**” pick up and drop off plan for student belongings. The district will pack up student belongings and distribute them to the parents in “BIG Brown Bags” via a safe, outdoor, socially distant manner, at prescribed dates and times (during the week of June 8-12).

- Parents will pick up the “BIG Brown Bags” - take them home and empty them.
  - Then parents will FILL the “BIG Brown Bags” with supplies, textbooks, calculators, sporting equipment, etc. that belong to the district.
  - Parents will RETURN the “BIG Brown Bags” to the schools on a specific date and time (during the week of June 15-19).
- Anything that is not picked up will be held until September or until we return to the school buildings. We cannot make arrangements for alternative pickups. We have 1800 students, and need to be socially distanced during this time.
  - Please follow the schedule from your principals; wear a mask and gloves for the pickup; keep a safe distance from other parents during this time.

**\*\*\*DO NOT RETURN DISTRICT CHROMEBOOKS in BIG Brown Bags. KEEP CHROMEBOOKS FOR SUMMER WORK.**

**Seniors and students who are NOT returning in September** will need to return chromebooks to the technology department at the MS/HS on Friday, June 12, or Monday, June 15 at 10 am. If you have a student with a district chromebook at home and the student is not returning in September, please contact us to schedule your return on one of these dates. Replacement value for lost or broken chromebooks is \$275. Our **technology department** is also available should students require access to technology or repairs/replacement of district devices. Contact Mike Maher for assistance [mmaher@sbpsnj.org](mailto:mmaher@sbpsnj.org).





### Info on commencement events

I am sure by now you have heard the Governor is allowing graduations as of July 6. However, he has not increased the number allowed to gather for summer graduations to exceed 25 participants. So we are not sure what the July 6 date will bring. Governor Murphy has already said that schools will likely have to plan for multiple graduations ceremonies to get through one class of students. The most recent [NJDOE broadcast](#), also suggests taking temperatures of students, guests, and school personnel supervising graduation ceremonies, and having everyone wear masks. The guidance for ceremonies includes [these restrictions](#). Our understanding from the first survey is that the seniors want to be TOGETHER. A July date will definitely exclude some students who will not be able to attend for military commitments, and may exclude extended family members as well. This would not be the kind of “real” graduation gathering anyone had hoped for at this point. Additionally, live, in person graduations on the field are restricted to senior high school students. The Governor expressly stated that [“moving up” grade-level promotion ceremonies](#) are not allowed to take place live, outdoors in July. I realize that is not the news anyone wanted to hear. We had certainly hoped for better news and sooner. So while we wait for better news from Trenton, *still hoping* the Governor will lift the gathering restrictions, we are planning for some fun alternatives with all the fanfare we can muster. We have sent a senior survey to our class of 2020 and their parents. The results of that survey will help us to determine what we will plan for July. Based on the preliminary results, *regardless of what may be planned for July, we are STILL planning this event:*

**Senior Class of 2020 - Graduation Celebration of Cars - June 19 at 6 pm.**

### SPECIFIC DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Seniors who have **not yet paid** for caps and gowns will need to settle that fee before final transcripts are released.

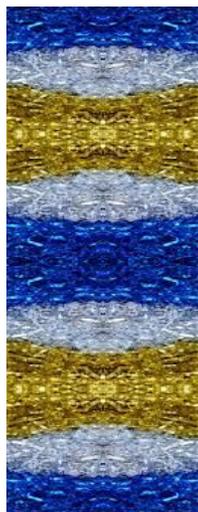


**The prom is still scheduled to be held at the Venetian on Wednesday, August 12.** Any payments already made for the Senior Banquet will be applied to the cost of the prom bids (\$75), or refunded if students choose not to attend the prom in August. In the event social gathering orders are not lifted by the Governor by that date, the prom will be cancelled and all payments will be refunded. Payments will be made through MySchoolBucks.



We still have our Senior of Class of 2020 video memory in place. Marching Order and Stage Clip Productions are helping us create a virtual event, which will be personalized with Saddle Brook colors, graphics and Falcon details. Valedictorian and Salutatorian speeches will be recorded and included, as will the administrators’ addresses. All students will have their names properly pronounced. The company ensures content accuracy with the school and with the

students. Graduating seniors will have the opportunity to dress in cap and gown, film themselves on cell phones, say a few words to the camera, give a shout out to family and friends, and then move their tassels over to signal completion. The company will develop and edit a professional virtual ceremony. Every student will receive a copy of the full ceremony to share with family and friends and keep as a memento. *This will be the ONLY way to fully ensure an event that has every graduating senior in it, and a special memory for the senior we lost two years ago.* All Senior Caps and Gowns have been delivered, and this planning has already begun. Student content submissions are rolling in. It will require full cooperation of the senior class to make it happen on time and include everyone.



### **DRIVE BY Promotion Parades Pre K - 8**

We will be scheduling drive-by, promotion parades for Pre K, Kindergarten, Grade 6, and Grade 8. I am working closely with many groups of administrators, teachers, the Mayor and the Police department to ensure everyone's safety and to celebrate each group of students at each school. The key to any and all of these events is SAFETY; no one is allowed out of their cars. Smaller children who still require car seats must always remain in their car seats at all times. Seat belts must be worn. No rules of the road or NJ Executive Order 142 may be broken.

Monday 6/15 - Washington School	Pre K Parade at 10:30 am
Monday 6/15 - Franklin School	Kindergarten Parade at 11:30 am, Grade 6 at 6:00PM
Tuesday 6/16 - Long School	Kindergarten Parade at 11:30 am, Grade 6 at 6:00PM
Wednesday 6/17 - Smith School	Kindergarten Parade at 11:30 am, Grade 6 at 6:00PM
Thursday 6/18 - Middle School	Grade 8 at 6:00PM

**Individual travel maps and protocols will be sent to the parents by their principals. SPECIFIC, GRADE LEVEL DETAILS TO FOLLOW.**



### **Federal Breakfast and Lunch Program**

Free meal distribution for qualifying students will still continue through the end of the school year until Friday, June 19. Distributions of free breakfast and lunch are taking place from 11:00am - 12:30pm at the Middle/High School every school day.

The [enrollment for the free and reduced meals program is open.](#)



**Remember: The new, last day of school is Friday, June 19, 2020.**



### **Summer 2020 - ESY**

At this point in time, The New Jersey Department of Education is allowing virtual Extended School Year (ESY) special education programs. The district's virtual learning platform will remain in effect. Case managers will continue to communicate with families of eligible students about ESY.



### **Yearbooks**

Senior Yearbooks will be delivered to seniors before the end of the school year. While we will not be in school for the traditional yearbook signings, we hope to have a time in the future where graduated seniors can come back to the school to sign yearbooks. When restrictions are lifted and we can safely be together, we will set a date. Grade 8 yearbooks and gowns have been delivered this week; yearbook signings will be planned when we return to school. Any elementary school yearbooks that have been planned will have distributions coordinated through PTO leadership and the building principals.



### MS/HS Award Ceremonies

Although we cannot host our *Annual Scholarship Dinner on June 9*, we will still celebrate our scholarship recipients, and thank our generous donors VIRTUALLY via ZOOM at 6pm. Link to follow from the Principal.

While we will not be able to physically gather in the auditorium as we traditionally do, we will still present our *Academic Awards Ceremony via video link on June 17*. Link to follow from the Principal.



I am grateful to the BOE who wants to be sure this graduating class receives an additional surprise this year. Our building administrators continue to work with class advisors on ways to creatively celebrate our seniors. Thank you to everyone for your suggestions and support as we look to celebrate the Class of 2020!



**VIRTUAL Field Day - On Wednesday June 10, 2020** The elementary school Physical Education Teachers will lead the students in a Virtual Field Day. Look forward to more fun and physical details in your Google Classrooms.



### Remember we are still in school... No, we are not done yet...Important School Info...

- Attendance and schoolwork must be completed by established due dates.
- Parents must follow the regular call-in absence procedures if their children are sick and not completing work.
- Deadlines must be respected for grading purposes. We encourage parents and students to maintain close contact with teachers as needed, and let teachers know if your children are in need of assistance.
- All of this work is real, and it counts. Make no mistake. The State is very clear. For these days to count toward our 180 day requirement, the work must be authentic.
- Because we are concerned for your child's welfare and ongrowth growth, students who "disappear" from attendance and work must be reported to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP, formerly known as DYFS.)

Please continue to check the website [www.sbpsnj.org](http://www.sbpsnj.org) and our Facebook Page at [Saddle Brook School District](#) for updates. As promised, when the District receives new information, I will continue to update you. Should you need any support during this time, do not hesitate to contact the teachers, counselors, child study team members, nurses, principals, other administrators, school secretaries, or the technology staff. ***We are all working and are all here to assist you in any way we can.*** If you need any outside assistance for mental health services, please follow [this link](#). Please stay safe and healthy.

With all good wishes and gratitude,

*Danielle M. Stanley*