



Chrys Harttraft, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

May 6, 2020

Dear SCVTS educational community member,

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to express my sincere sympathy to those who have been directly affected by COVID19. This virus has affected many of us in so many ways, but the loss of loved ones can not be compared with other minor or major losses or inconveniences.

There continues to be an enormous amount of uncertainty, but with Governor Murphy's declaration that **schools will remain closed for the duration of the 2019/20 school year**, we can now focus our efforts on alternate plans for closing out the current school year and begin to plan for our re-entry into the 2020/21 school year.

The decision to close schools for the rest of the school year has been met with mixed emotions. Many held out hope that we could salvage some of the events that were planned, most importantly graduation and the prom. Over time it became obvious that these events would not take place as planned and safety and wellness must remain our top priority. Therefore, plans for a virtual type of graduation are in the planning stages, as well as, determining the safest way to deliver caps and gowns to seniors and providing an opportunity for those students to collect their belongings from their respective lockers. We will communicate information and instructions once specifics are known.

For the remaining weeks, **SCVTS will continue to provide remote learning until June 17th**, the last day of school. We are also considering summer opportunities and how much can be accomplished over the summer months to make up for some losses, particularly for seniors' industry certifications. Please help us keep your students engaged during the last quarter and see that required work is completed.

As the State's decision makers are grappling with planning for schools to open, SCVTS is also addressing plans for next year's opening. We meet weekly with various constituents in the county so that similarities in plans are considered. We are jointly working on reopening plans and the State has required updates to our *School Health Related Closure Preparedness Plan*, which requires NJ Department of Education approval. That plan, including updates and other pertinent COVID19 information can be found on our website.

In closing, let me say that I continue to be inspired by the support we are getting from parents, families and students. Our hard working staff deserve our gratitude and appreciation today more than ever. I would describe them as both essential and heroic. Thank you for your patience as we strive together to make the most successful transition possible.

Best regards,

Chrys Harttraft

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