

# Shrewsbury Borough School

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

After eight weeks of school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope that you and your family are healthy, safe, and surviving in the best way that you can through these difficult and uncertain times. As I shared earlier in the week, Governor Murphy has decided to close all public schools in New Jersey for the remainder of the school year. His decision brings some closure and finality to the issue that we have confronted for the past several weeks, but raises many other questions. Please know that I will provide as much information to our school community about what we can expect over the next several weeks and months as soon as the guidance is provided. I fully understand how this lack of immediate information is difficult for all of us and I am hopeful that we will be able to start planning for important aspects of the SBS school experience soon. For the immediate future, I can share some information about SBS and our planning:

- School districts on the Peninsula and throughout the county are beginning to plan for virtual commencement/graduation exercises for their 8th grades and high school seniors. Due to the current Executive Orders issued by Governor Murphy, any type of live ceremony is prohibited. It is likely that SBS will have to plan something similar to ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff, parents, and other community members. I know this is a tremendous disappointment for our Class of 2020. I feel confident that we will be able to honor and congratulate all of our graduates even under these difficult circumstances. As more guidance from the NJDOE becomes available, we will develop our plans to celebrate our 8th graders in June.
- I will ask the Shrewsbury Board of Education to approve our final school day this year as June 18th, 2020. We have a final emergency closure/snow day left over that we normally add to the Memorial Day weekend. This will serve all of us much better by shortening the school year by a day.
- The district will be updating our SBS COVID-19 Closure and Continuity Plan for submission to the Executive County Superintendent and NJDOE as part of our ongoing

efforts to provide virtual, home instruction to all of our students. SBS will be developing plans for our special education extended school year and our targeted student assistance programs for this summer with respect to the Governor Murphy's executive orders currently in place and consistent with our SBS COVID-19 Closure and Continuity Plan.

- As part of our summer cleaning and maintenance plans, we will be cleaning out lockers, desks, student cubbies, and other areas where students store personal belongings. We will designate days when parents can come to the school to pick items that were not taken home in March. We will make every effort to match and label items for your convenience. A date and more information are forthcoming.
- Our Community Outreach Committee, composed of administrators, teachers and staff members, is hard at work planning several projects for our local community. Current plans include efforts to honor essential employees at nursing homes, grocery stores, and other local businesses. We are also working on a donation project for COVID-19 patients who are in need of items of comfort when they are separated from their loved ones in the hospital. More information is forthcoming about how our students and parents can help!
- I want to thank the Shrewsbury Parent Teacher Association, the Foundation for Shrewsbury Education, and all of our students and parents for making this Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Nurse Day such a success! The cards, gifts, and other tokens of appreciation and love were much appreciated and well deserved!
- I am still accepting student videos for the Pledge of Allegiance and the PeaceBuilder Pledge! I want to encourage everyone to submit videos of the Pledge of Allegiance and the SBS PeaceBuilder Pledge for daily publication. Please use this link, [Pledge of Allegiance & SBS PeaceBuilder Pledge](#), to sign up and to upload your video. These student videos will be published to Twitter, Facebook, and our new SBS Youtube Channel. I will also send these videos to our teachers to post in their Google Classrooms each day. You can find a copy of the SBS PeaceBuilder Pledge on our website or by following this link: [SBS PeaceBuilder Pledge](#).
- If students have other videos of Shrewsbury, SBS, or anything else that they would like to share, I will post them to our SBS YouTube channel for the school community as well.
- As always, please visit the [SBS Website](#) for important health information about the COVID-19 pandemic from the CDC, NJDOH, and the Monmouth County Health Commission #1. You can also contact Mrs. Hillen, our School Nurse, who has been seeking out resources for students, parents, and staff. I have also included several important resources that will also be posted on our website.

- If you think that your child may need to speak with a counselor or if you need further resources to help your family through this time, please feel free to contact our professional counseling staff:
  - Ms. Katherine Fitzpatrick, School Psychologist - 1.732.747.0882, extension # 119 or [fitzpatrickk@sbs-nj.org](mailto:fitzpatrickk@sbs-nj.org)
  - Mrs. Kristina Kiely, School Social Worker - 1.732.747.0882, extension #118 or [kielyk@sbs-nj.org](mailto:kielyk@sbs-nj.org)
  - Ms. Marisa Shaheen, School Counselor - 1.732.747.0882, extension #309 or [shaheenm@sbs-nj.org](mailto:shaheenm@sbs-nj.org)
  
- Please enjoy another wonderful duet from the SBS Drama Club and the cast of “Music Man JR”! We have some amazing talent here at SBS and this will brighten your day! Here are Isabella Chagares and Lucas Wilson performing ["Til There Was You" - Music Man JR](#).

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful weekend and a very Happy Mother’s Day!

Stay healthy and stay well, Tigers! We got this!!

Very sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell  
Superintendent