



Oradell Public School District

*Our children, our hope, our future*

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April 28, 2020

Dear OPS Community Members,

What a beautiful day it is outside! These days, I am making sure to embrace the positive around me, like a sunny day. This past week, I have so enjoyed sitting in on classroom lessons, watching teachers' instructional videos and smiling as I watch our students' responses to Padlet and Flipgrid prompts. We are moving forward and continuing to find ways to engage students.

Several weeks ago, I said that we needed to accept that our students would return to school with learning gaps and trust that we would be prepared to address that. What I had not thought about until I watched our children this week is that they will also return to school with new strengths. I've seen improvements in their eye contact and presentation skills. I've seen improvements in their technology skills as one third grader recently explained to her teacher how to switch the host position of the meeting to me! I've seen the photos of growing bonds as siblings help siblings, and their creativity . . . well, at the risk of sounding sappy, it warms my heart!

So, yes, we have faced challenges, and we will likely continue to. However, we also are evolving and growing in new ways. This is part of what we will discuss as we plan as a professional community this week. Our collaborative planning sessions where administrators and teachers meet are where we share what we notice and decide where we should go next. This week's planning sessions (where teachers will not be accessible to students for two hours) will be the same as the schedule from two weeks ago:

- *Wednesday, April 29th from 12:30-2:30: 2nd and 4th Grade*
- *Thursday, April 30th from 12:30-2:30: Kindergarten, 3rd and 6th Grade.*
- *Friday, May 1st from 12:30-2:30: 1st and 5th Grade*

As always, thank you for your ongoing support as part of your child's learning team. We continue to move forward together!

*Megan N. Bazios*