June 4, 2020

Dear St. Johns Public Schools Families,

It is hard to believe that it is the end of the 2019-2020 school year. In many ways time has flown by since school was last held in our buildings on March 13. In other ways, it feels like it was a lifetime ago. Overnight, we were expected to switch from a traditional brick and mortar school to remote learning and you rose to the challenge. Thank you doesn’t seem like enough to each of you - our parents, students, and staff. Your patience, cooperation, and most importantly, your perseverance for doing your part was vital in completing this school year. I know it was not easy and for many it was frustrating, but you did show that together, we succeed!

As we reflect and learn from our experiences, we would like to ask parents to help us learn from these past few months. We have put together a short survey for parents. We kindly ask that each family complete this survey at [https://bit.ly/ParentSJ](https://bit.ly/ParentSJ). This is a survey that you may have received from your building principal. If you have already completed it, thank you!

Looking forward to the 2020 - 2021 school year, many are wondering what it will look like. Many are asking what is going to happen. The truth is, we really don’t know at this time. Ultimately, we will take direction from State officials and our local health department. The Governor has assembled an advisory council to address the return to learning in the fall. It is likely to be several weeks before we have any direction on how instruction will look when the school year begins on August 31. Even then, I am sure that the plans will be “subject to change”.

A few options of what may happen in the fall are:

- Return to traditional face to face instruction. This would be business as was usual before the pandemic. We will follow all health and safety requirements to be sure that we have the optimal learning environment for students and staff.
- Start up with remote learning as we did this spring or at least move to it at some point should conditions dictate that we need to do so. This option will likely require us to improve the quality and rigor from what we have experienced this spring. We have learned a lot about remote learning these last eight weeks and I am confident that we will be ready to produce an even more robust product should we move to this mode of learning at any point next year.
- Finally a hybrid model of education. In this model, a limited number of students would attend school in a building on given days while others would learn remotely. On the other days, students would switch roles. There would be a lot of challenges for the school, students, and families. However, we will do all we can to deliver quality instruction should we be directed to follow this model.

Together, we succeed.
These are just a few of the possibilities that may happen. Please be assured that no matter the mode of instruction we are directed to deliver, we will work hard to serve all of our families. We also appreciate your continued patience and support as we move forward. We will share plans as soon as more information is available.

Again, thank you all for making this school year successful. It has been one that I had not experienced in my thirty-two year educational career and hopefully will never experience again! Have a wonderful summer break. I look forward to seeing you all back at school in some form on August 31!

Together, we Succeed.

Mark Palmer
Superintendent