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Dear Mount Laurel School Family,

Today, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced that all schools in New Jersey will remain closed for the duration of the school year.

Although we all yearn to be back to normal, it is clear that given the current state of the Coronavirus outbreak it is just not safe for your children and their teachers to return to school.

Please know that we will continue to work together with you to develop ways to address what would have been our normal end-of-year activities and events.

Meanwhile, our learning platforms will continue as planned. In addition, food distribution to eligible families will continue according to schedule. However, I want to encourage all families whose economic conditions may have been negatively impacted by the pandemic to complete the free and reduced-price lunch application found on our website for possible assistance.

Finally, a word about the governor's announcement and our teachers.

Today's announcement by Governor Murphy marks the beginning of Teacher Appreciation Week. If you are an optimist like me, then you may believe one of the many positive lessons we will all come to appreciate more is the value of our teachers.

I know I speak for everyone when I say how amazing our teachers have been to our community and your children.

We know that the academic instructional program we are providing does not equal in-school teaching and learning. However, what we are learning is the important role teachers play in their student's development, the powerful connections they make with them, and the joy they instill in learning.

Teachers connect to students and form bonds that strengthen their resilience and help foster their social emotional growth.

What our children need now more than ever our teachers are providing them, a sense of self-worth, encouragement, and love.

We will work hard together to strengthen and develop your child's academic skills over time; please know that we are firmly committed to their achievement.

However, during these times of uncertainty, the one thing that we have come to be thankful, grateful and appreciative for is the inseparable bond that exists between a teacher and their students!

Therefore, I ask you to join me in expressing our sincere and genuine appreciation to all our educators for all that they do on behalf of their students.

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

Sincerely,

George J. Rafferty, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools