June 4, 2020

Dear Secaucus School District Students, Families, and Staff:

The Secaucus School District is part of a small community that values education, family, and diversity. Our biggest accomplishments come from meeting the educational, social, emotional, and mental needs of all students. We pride ourselves on teaching our students about acceptance, kindness, and caring for others. These factors contribute to the overall success of both the district and its students in the greater community, state, and world.

These skills that our students have had instilled in them were put to the test over the last few months, as they were forced to quickly adapt and accept new “norms”, as COVID-19 affected their entire life. This required our district to also adapt to relying on virtual instruction in order for our students to continue to learn, as well as providing enhanced means of support to all students and their families. Unfortunately, as we began to move on to a new normal and celebrate the widening parameters that were put in place by COVID-19, we were once again put in a difficult position, as we grieved for the tragic death of George Floyd that took place in Minnesota, as well as the challenges of racial division and social unrest.

Although we would like to think that our students and community are immune to such events and social debates, that unfortunately, is not the case. Sadly, there is no school district in America that should consider itself free from the expectation of reflecting on its practices in ensuring that we support others, celebrate diversity, and promote advocacy in a constructive and positive manner.

Our school district understands that many have been impacted by recent events and we want to ensure that our students and families know that we are committed to being available in many ways in order to support them in the best way possible, especially during these times.

In the upcoming days, weeks, and months, I will be creating more opportunities for further professional development for all staff and students, as well as creating a Social Justice Steering Committee that can help analyze many of our school policies, units of study, and curriculum guides in order to ensure that our students receive the best and most diversified education.

For the immediate future upon us, we ask that all students, staff, and families who need support with many of the issues which we are currently faced, reach out to our guidance team and school administrators, who are always available to help. In the next several days, we will also provide various resources on our district website.

The world has been faced with many challenges and these are difficult times for us as Americans and Secaucus Patriots, but our district remains confident that together we can address these various challenges and come out stronger, closer, and better equipped to serve our community, country, and one another.

Educationally Yours,
Jennifer Montesano