



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

June 1, 2020

Dear Eighth Grade Parents and Guardians,

Next week, each elementary school in the district will host its own virtual promotion ceremony. To the extent possible, each virtual promotion ceremony will replicate as many components of an in-person promotion ceremony as is customary, including student speeches, honors, student recognitions, etc. Each ceremony will be streamed for families to view from the comfort and safety of their own homes. While these aren't the ceremonies we would have anticipated at the beginning of the year, we are excited as a district for these events.

We understand that some are disappointed that we'll be unable to have outdoor events. Let me explain why. Our guiding principle throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been ensuring the safety of our students, staff, teachers and community. We have been informed that to hold 27 individual ceremonies would place an undue strain on our already strained public safety and health first responders. Governor Murphy's executive orders as well as Department of Health and Education rules, regulations and guidance place further restrictions.

These are unprecedented times. Our district's children have accomplished much and in extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

More communication will follow to students and families as we move forward with finalizing details for the virtual promotion ceremonies. Please know we want to celebrate the excellent achievements of your children in the best way possible, understanding that health is the overriding determinant. We are confident the planned experience will suitably honor this important milestone in your children's lives.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

500 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07208 • Ph: 908.436.6131 • Fax: 908.436.6133
Email: hugelmol@epsnj.org • Website: www.epsnj.org