



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

September 11, 2020

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Team Members:

On this date nearly two decades ago, our nation was the victim of an unprecedented act of terrorism that forever changed us. Fear and uncertainty took grip throughout the United States as a significant number of lives were lost due to the attacks, leading to cancelled air travel throughout North America and record declines of U.S. financial markets.

Today, we again are facing historical events that have brought fears and uncertainties and will forever change us. Since the pandemic officially reached the U.S. in January, nearly 190,000 people have lost their lives to COVID-19 in our nation alone and our economy has experienced volatility. Our way of life has been impacted the past several months and undoubtedly will continue to be in the months ahead.

As we continue to battle a life-threatening virus, let us remember and call upon the strength and resolve demonstrated as we recovered and rebuilt, both immediately after and in the days, weeks, months, and years that followed the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

In the importance of working together, let us be reminded of how we witnessed the best versions of so many around us in the aftermath of September 11th, including those who made meals for one another, brought bottles of water for one another, donated blood for one another, held vigils beside one another, gave hugs to one another, and lent unconditional support to one another.

We have learned time and again that during our toughest and most dire moments we are at our best when we come together. Thank you for your commitment to our schools and helping our learning community come together during these difficult times. I look forward to the day that we can all truly be together witnessing our students achieving excellence and celebrating our successes.

May God bless you, your loved ones, and all those affected by the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools