



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

May 7, 2021

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Team Members:

For all the trials, tribulations, fears, and uncertainties we have faced this past year, we also have been given moments to reflect while our daily ways of life were brought to a standstill. These moments have provided us the opportunity to shine a light on our lives and gain perspective on what and who are most important to us. The pandemic has simultaneously placed us on a chaotic, uncharted journey and shown us the immense power of togetherness as a compass.

We have reopened our schools together, continued to rise above dire circumstances together, and continued to come out the other side together. As we move closer to the end of this school year, we have so much for which to be grateful and appreciative, such as our teachers who I had the great pleasure of watching reconnect in person with their students for the first time in over a year. Those heartfelt and powerful moments of joy were ones that I, as well as our students and teachers, will remember for a lifetime.

As we reach the end of Teacher Appreciation Week and approach Mother's Day, I want to honor my favorite teacher who has provided me with so many of those moments of joy throughout my life. Her love, guidance, and support has meant everything to me in the person I have become and the career that I have built. I was so lucky that my best teacher ever was also my first.

The last 14 months have certainly shown how fragile life can be and how quickly we can lose our connection with our favorite teachers, but as lifelong learners we can always take comfort in the way they have made us feel and the lessons they have imparted that helped carry us to success.

Thank you mom for your unconditional love, your invaluable wisdom, and your calm, steady presence.

Thank you also to our district mothers who instill the love of learning in our students and contribute to their success and thank you to mothers everywhere for your boundless love and sacrifice.

Happy Mother's Day and best wishes for a day that brings you in return the tremendous love you give freely to others.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**