



Olga Hugelmeyer  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Professional Learning Community,

The last ten months have provided challenges and hardships unlike any we have experienced before, which have called on us all to navigate uncharted paths, to take on new roles, and to learn new skills, all in the effort to keep education thriving here in Elizabeth.

Our families have brought classroom instruction into their homes, maintaining a delicate balancing act of work, everyday life, and parenting while keeping their children engaged in their education. Our students have shown great commitment to learning and an equal determination to succeed despite the circumstances they have endured. Our teachers have shown great dedication in taking on professional development to enhance their technology and remote instruction skills while delivering instruction to keep our students on the road to future success. Our team members as a whole have made great sacrifices and have shown great devotion to ensuring that education continued throughout these extraordinarily tough conditions. Our Board has worked tirelessly to make sure our district has the resources and support in place to keep Elizabeth Public Schools' high-quality instruction and related services operating efficiently and effectively to the best and greatest extent possible.

As we have said many times before, "The school community is a special place." Those words have never been truer than they are today. Our entire community has proven its exceptionality because each and every individual has answered the call and embraced the challenges of upholding our standard of excellence and preserving education for the students of Elizabeth Public Schools.

With Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday approaching, we are reminded of the importance of dedicating our lives to education and service and his perseverance in communicating those essential values.

As Dr. King so eloquently stated in his paper, "The Purpose of Education," "we must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate."

It is vital that the instruction we provide our students not only focus on language arts, math, science, social studies, and world languages, but also social, emotional, and life skills and knowledge. We must instill a passion to embrace learning, to seek knowledge, and to grow into leaders who care enough to serve their community and share their knowledge with others.

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In his sermon, "The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life," Dr. King said:

"...a man has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow confines of his own individual concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity...Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others....And don't forget in doing something for others that you have what you have because of others. Don't forget that. We are tied together in life and in the world..."

This past year has shown us in so many ways that we are tied together in life and in the world and that there is nothing greater than to do something for others. It has been very heartening and encouraging in these troubling times to witness the strength and resolve of our community when it comes together in its full strength for a shared and noble purpose.

The vitality of our society moving forward rests not only on how well our students retain the knowledge from the lessons we provide, but also how well those students carry and deliver that knowledge to the generations that follow them. Equally, the future prosperity of our community will be determined both by how strong we come together and how hard we work for one another.

Thank you for serving the Elizabeth Public Schools Professional Community and for passing on the gift of education to our students so that they may live out their full potential and, in turn, empower our community and society to become the greatest versions of themselves.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer