

June 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardian and Elizabeth Community Members:

Today, Governor Phil Murphy and state officials announced that public schools will reopen in the fall under strict guidelines to protect against COVID-19.

To develop a safe reopening plan we are in the process of forming a Restart Committee. This committee will draw on the many stakeholders in the City of Elizabeth whose voices and expertise will be needed to ensure a healthy restart. Under the state recommendations, this committee will include the Elizabeth Board of Education under the leadership of Diane Barbosa, school administration officials and officials from the local health, public safety, office of emergency management, teachers, staff, parents, students, city government and similar communities.

The guiding principle of each decision made in our community since the coronavirus outbreak has been to protect the health of our community members. That will continue to be the guiding principle as we consider the circumstances of the Fall School Year.

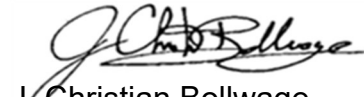
Classes and learning will look different from the time before the public health emergency. Social distancing, wearing of masks, reconfiguration of classrooms and schedules, continuing elements of distance learning and numerous other changes will occur.

We received the state Department of Education's 104-page Restart and Recovery Plan for Education just hours ago. We are already in the process of developing a safe restart plan. The state allows for considerable discretion at the local level based on changing health conditions throughout the state and country and the unique nature of each school district. The situation with COVID-19, as you know, is fluid. So as more information becomes available we will share plans. There will be a need for patience as there has been throughout this pandemic.


The school year that just concluded was like none in history; the same can be said for the upcoming school year. Our community faced the trying past as partners with perseverance and courage. We know we will face the future in the same way.

We will keep you updated.

Wishing you a safe and healthy summer.



J. Christian Bollwage  
Mayor



Olga Hugelmeier  
Superintendent