



June 25, 2020

Dear South Huntington Families:

We have spent the past several weeks trying to devise some scenario that would provide for viable Wildcat Camps for the summer. Unfortunately, the lack of clear school grounds guidance, coupled with group size and activity restrictions, are making it impossible to see any moving path forward. As a result, we will be joining the neighboring school districts in canceling our activity camps for the 2020 summer. Please know that we understand the hardship and disappointment this causes and really wanted nothing more than to find some camp structure that provided for both safety and student activity this summer. Unfortunately, we were not successful in these attempts and will now turn our attention to developing plans for anything and everything that might be directed by the Governor's Executive Order relative to our September opening.

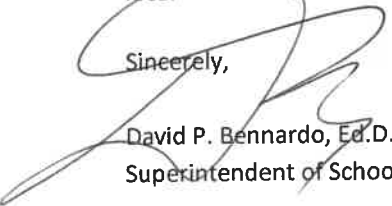
Our September planning is a bit challenging at this point because we have absolutely no idea what we will and will not be permitted to do in terms of in-person teaching and learning. As a result, we are being directed to plan for all eventualities. With this ambiguity as a reality, I have requested our District team to prepare three plans:

1. Full person teaching and learning;
2. Full virtual teaching and learning;
3. Some combination of virtual and in-person teaching and learning.

I have asked these teams to concentrate on firm plans for each scenario and not digress into opinions of "best cases" because those decisions are being directed by Executive Order. In other words, we can and should all make our opinions known at the NYS level in any way we choose, but the reality is that we must be ready to do the job (whatever that may look like) when the September decision arrives. We are going to keep at it throughout the summer and make sure that we are prepared for a safe, full return to school in September, as well as a quality virtual-instructional format, and some type of combination if the need arises. In doing so, we are investigating the best safety practices, as well as examining instructional presentations that are most effective in face-to-face and virtual formats. We will also use the lessons and feedback of these past 4 months, as well as the experiences of districts around the region, to craft a best plan moving forward. With that said, our planning will certainly become more targeted when decisions such as the number of students in a classroom or bus, and the expectations regarding masks or face coverings start filtering down from Albany.

Our task at this point is to keep focused and disciplined by preparing for all eventualities and ensuring the best possible services for whatever scenario evolves. We will, of course, keep in touch as more specifics are provided to local school districts.

Sincerely,


David P. Bennardo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools