



# Margate City Board of Education

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July 6, 2020

Dear Margate Families:

With the recent guidance issued by the State of New Jersey, we are beginning the planning process for the reopening of our schools in September. "The Road Back", a restart recovery plan for education published by the New Jersey Department of Education provides a set of standards to assist in the process of returning to school. We will use this document to guide our reopening strategies.

Absent a shift in public health data, our schools will open for in-person instruction in the Fall. The reopening of our buildings will include necessary limitations to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. While all districts must follow the same guidelines, we have the latitude to develop a plan that best fits our local needs. This is important for several reasons, many of which are unique to our district. For example, our low to moderate class sizes will serve us well, as will our available facilities, including outside spaces. However, even with these advantages we will need to be creative in our approach, allowing us to meet the guidelines in a responsible manner through a variety of means.

The first step in the return process begins this week as we provide in-person instruction through some of our small group summer programs. Because of our size, we are one of only a handful of districts in the county able to provide our students with this opportunity. Additionally, on Thursday our 8th graders will participate in a much anticipated in-person graduation ceremony. Many of the precautionary measures and guidelines we developed for these programs will be expanded in preparation for our return to school as an entire district. A challenge we will meet by engaging local stakeholders to address the unique needs of our community.

In summary, as we approach September we will focus on providing our students with the comprehensive educational program they deserve while simultaneously protecting the health and safety of our entire school community. No easy task, but one we are confident we will meet.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Baruffi".

Thomas A. Baruffi, Ed. D.  
Interim Superintendent

TB/to