



Script of Dr. Block's June 18, 2021 Video Message

Hello Livingston Public Schools Community this is Matt Block, Superintendent of Schools.

I have had the great pleasure of attending exciting, joyful, and celebratory end-of-the-year events at all of our schools over this past week, and will be able to continue doing so in the week still to come. As I see the year come to a close on such a positive note, I am continually reminded how far our journey has taken us.

Now, we are ready to bring to a close a year like no other in the Livingston Public Schools. We are doing so full time, in person, and with the energy and enthusiasm we have missed so much during the pandemic. As I have said throughout the year, I cannot thank our Livingston Public Schools Team enough for all of the caring, hard work, persistence, perseverance, and dedication they have shown along the way. I am proud to be part of an outstanding team of educators who never give up, and do whatever needs to be done when it needs to be done to put students first. My appreciation and gratitude goes out to our students and families as well, who have been patient, understanding, and flexible as the logistics around school have evolved over the course of the year.

As we begin to embark on the summer months in Livingston, our district will continue to be alive with programming, planning, and professional development. We have already been planning for months for our opening on September 1st, 2021. For this September we know:

- There will be no remote instruction.
- We will have full days with lunch beginning on the first day of school.
- We will continue to use outdoor space since autumn is a beautiful time of year to be outside.
- A new extended elementary schedule will be in place with additional exciting learning opportunities.
- Some mitigation measures will disappear, like daily temperature checks and plexiglass on every desk.

We do not yet know:

- What our masking guidelines will be. We will listen for an announcement from the Governor. We will also consult with the NJDOH, Livingston DOH, district physician & Livingston Physicians Board to determine our future practices.
- We do not know if snow days will be able to be remote learning days.
- We do not know if schools will still be doing contact tracing and quarantining.
- We do not know if we will still need a Daily Covid Tracker form. If we do have one, it would likely be shorter and correspond with current guidelines.

These are some of the issues we will be sorting through over the summer. We will be in touch with our staff and families over the summer months as some of these "unknowns" become "knowns".

Finally, today, June 18, 2021, Juneteenth is being observed officially as a State Holiday in New Jersey for the first time, and as of yesterday, Juneteenth became a national holiday. Juneteenth is a celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, and it is a holiday that focuses on important ideas such as freedom, and the hope for a better future for all. I think these are ideas worth celebrating as we come to the end of a year filled with struggle and challenge. I want to wish everyone a meaningful Juneteenth.

As we continue looking ahead and moving forward, I hope all of the members of our LPS Community have a safe, healthy, relaxing, and rejuvenating summer break. We will be in touch soon. Thank you.