



# Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Riker Hill Families,

As we enter the final days of August, it is only natural to be filled with a range of emotions and feelings. This summer, more than most, was a much needed respite for all, especially after the past 17+ months we've been through. Whether you took a vacation, sent your children to camp, reconnected with family and friends, and more, I truly hope you were able to relax, recharge, and had many memorable and meaningful positive experiences.

Exactly one week from today, we will be at the start of a new school year, which in my humble opinion is one of the best days of the calendar year. With continued uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, the 2021-2022 school year affords us with the chance to take another step forward. Having been tested, time and time again, our Ramily has shown resilience and grew stronger, through it all. As Dr. Block shared, we are moving toward a *Mindful Normal*, which will allow us to have a much needed feeling of more normalcy, while still doing our individual parts to keep ourselves and each other healthy and safe.

After the challenges we've faced up to this point, each of us having unique experiences along the way, it is important to reflect on what we endured, take inventory of where we are now, and use the lessons learned to chart a path forward together. The 2021-2022 school year brings a "new dawn" and provides all students, teachers, staff, and families with an opportunity to approach the year with a sense of renewed spirit, as we continue to grapple with our ever-changing environment and make the most of our evolving normal.

When the sun comes up on Wednesday, September 1, it will mark a new dawn of a new school year. We will come together as one Ramily, excited to see familiar faces and meet new ones, all to celebrate the start of the next most important step in your children's educational trajectory, thus far. I challenge you to appreciate the moments, savor the memories made, and remember that we are, in fact, all in this together, with one common goal; we all want what is best for your children. We are committed to partnering with you and doing whatever we can to help your children stay curious, engage in self-discovery, and continue to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Best Regards,

# #WEARERAMILY

*Livingston Public Schools: Empowering all to learn, create, contribute and grow.*