



Superintendent's Back-to-School Message to Students and Families 2021-22 School Year

August 16, 2021

Dear NJUHSD students and families:

On behalf of the entire school district, I welcome our students and families to the 2021-22 school year! Second to graduations, “back-to-school” is one of my favorite times of the year because it symbolizes new beginnings and possibilities for our students. This year, perhaps more than any other, I am excited to welcome students, families, and staff back to full in-person instruction along with all of the events and activities that accompany vibrant high school communities.

I have run out of phrases and colloquialisms that try to capture what we have experienced the past year and a half. Unfortunately, it looks like we will continue to be confronted with the challenges associated with COVID-19. We start the 2021-22 school year with yet another round of uncertainties and anxieties. Despite the worries and unknowns of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, my optimism about NJUHSD’s future remains steadfast.

A major element of our work this school year will be that of restoration. Our students and families will need time for adjustment and reorientation to in-person instruction. Almost all of our students struggled with some form of academic and social-emotional challenges while we and our feeder districts were in distance and/or hybrid instructional models. As a result, our priority this year will be to provide NJUHSD students the support, encouragement, and grace they need to successfully transition back into the classroom, and equally important, into the activities and positive relationships that foster successful school experiences for all of our students.

As we initiate our transition back to in-person instruction, the safety and well-being of our students, families, staff, and broader community remain the district’s top priorities. The district will continue to adhere to the guidance and directives of federal, state, and local public health officials. While adherence to such requirements has been controversial with some members of our community, I thank our students and families for their professionalism and continued willingness to do what we can collectively to keep our schools and activities safe and open. District staff will continue to do all that we can to build and sustain a sense of safety, belonging, and community for all of our students.

I wish you and your families a wonderful 2021-22 school year. If there is anything I or district administration can do to improve your school and NJUHSD experience, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued trust and support for NJUHSD.

Sincerely,

Brett W. McFadden
Superintendent