August 3, 2020

Dear NJUHSD Family:

Welcome back! I hope that this message finds you and your families well. I also hope you and your families were able to find a slice of peace and rest from the challenges and uncertainties happening in the world and here at home.

I begin by saying thank you. It is impossible to truly encapsulate the magnitude of your service, passion, and commitment to our students, families, and broader community during past months. Many of you faced your own set of traumatic experiences and challenges while still displaying your unwavering support for our community during this very difficult time in our nation, state, and county’s history. I continue to be in awe of your resilience and ability to quickly adapt during these most difficult months.

Unfortunately, the ongoing and unpredictable aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to pose daunting risks and challenges to our district and Nevada County as a whole. It is entirely possible that we have not “hit bottom” or seen the worst of our collective troubles. As we initiate the 2020-21 instructional year, the health and safety of our students, staff, and broader community remain our very top priority. Our decisions and actions in the upcoming school year will be grounded in this belief, and in concert with our district’s vision, mission, and core values: https://www.njuhsd.com/Our-District/District-Vision/index.html.

As we open the 2020-2021 instructional year in a distance learning mode, we must together remain committed to ensuring that all of our students continue to experience the care and commitment, and the routine of daily learning, even in full distance learning. Simply put, our distance learning plan must be executed and administered in the most effective manner possible. Our students, parents, and community are counting on us to provide them the quality instruction and learning experiences they deserve and need to succeed in life.

Recognizing the daunting challenges before us, the District’s Management Team, with feedback from certificated and classified staffs, has focused their efforts over the summer on the development of comprehensive professional development modules for effective distance instruction and learning outcomes. Over the next few days and weeks, district and site leaders will issue a series of communications, resources, and training schedules to make sure all of us are fully prepared to meet the needs of our students in this uncertain time.

I am confident that our district will overcome and recover stronger than before the pandemic. My confidence is grounded in one thing: **Your unbridled focus and passion to ensure that all of our students receive the very best instruction, intervention, and support possible.** On behalf of myself, our Cabinet team, and the Board of Trustees, I wish you a successful 2020-21 instructional year. We are NJUHSD and Nevada County strong!

Sincerely,

Brett W. McFadden
Superintendent