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Post-secondary success that may lead to the military or post-secondary success may take them as an entrepreneur.

Hillside has such a great tradition of pride, loyalty, and community. We will continue to build upon these traditions in as many constructive ways as we can. To the alumni of Hillside, my doors will be open to you. No matter if you are the class of 1967 or 2021, you are a vital voice in the success of our district.

Although we are still dealing with the effects of COVID, I understand the importance of returning our students to an environment that allows students the opportunity to experience teaching and learning constructively and reflectively.

Our classrooms allow us to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments that all of our students achieve. It is a space where our students come first, and we as adults must learn how to collaboratively engage in discourse that positively develops the students' intelligence. We, as adults, may sometimes get in the way and muddy the waters for them. That cannot be the norm under my leadership.

Let me be clear; I'm not saying that we're going to be perfect. I am a committed leader working in conjunction with the school board to ensure that this space is suitable for all students.

I want to outline three (3) essential goals that will ultimately frame our strategic plan:

1. We are about building the emotional, academic, and physical stamina of our children. School leaders expect academic excellence and rigor, and multiple stakeholders will be the partners to aid in this work. curricular resources will be standards-base and aligned to a rigorous curriculum and will prepare our students for the next level
2. We're going to challenge students to become avid readers. Students will read and read often. I shared with our athletic director recently, athletes and anyone who participates in extracurricular activities must be solid on the field and well-skilled in comprehension and conversational discourse off the field.
3. I assure you that I am committed to making our organization responsive to issues and concerns. While we may have misstep at times, our goal is to respond to our community's needs and expectations. I assure you that we will strive to ensure that our communities are equitable, our resources equitable, our school communities are equitable.

As we are still dealing with the COVID, there are protocols that we must follow. One essential protocol is as follows:

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1. We must follow Executive Order(EO) 251. EO 251 requires that a mask be worn by all students, staff, and visitors when inside school buildings. There are some exemptions; however, the New Jersey Department of Education's *Road Forward* guidance outlines the expectations and exemptions.

In closing, let me say that it is essential that our students come back to school communities prepared to learn. Collectively, we will all strive to make sure students are ready for post-secondary success.

Reminders,

1. Come out and support our Hillside High School Football team on September 5<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers University, Shi Stadium in New Brunswick, NJ. Ticket information is available on our website.
2. I will post updates for the back-to-school nights on our district website. I do want you to know that we are monitoring the CDC guidelines and the health department regulations. And there may be some adjustments about the school nights, but we will have back-to-school nights so that students and parents can come out to the schools and see what is happening. But we want to make sure that we do it in a manner aligned to the CDC guidelines.