

## *Center Moriches Union Free School District*

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August 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome back! I hope that although a bit different this year, the summer months were spent creating lasting family memories, and that you enjoyed the many activities that make this time of year so special for children.

Please accept my personal thanks and gratitude for the steadfast support and patience the CM community has extended through our reopening planning. With the valuable input from all stakeholders we strived to create a plan that supports the academic, social and emotional needs of ALL students with a commitment to equity, while placing health and safety at the forefront. Whether choosing Distance Learning or Hybrid, the District is committed to providing the highest quality education possible for all of the students and families we serve.

Next week, we will begin the year with a digital orientation day on Tuesday, September 8. Our Red cohort will begin in-person on Wednesday, September 9, and our white cohort will be coming in on Friday, September 11. Please see the attachments for our September Academic Calendar.

Upon reopening next week, you will notice a couple of significant changes to our District's administration team. After ten years leading our High School, Mr. Casswell has retired, with his last official day being today. Mr. Jeremy Thode will be serving as our interim High School Principal through January of 2021. In addition, Ms. Courtney Fabian has been hired as our Middle School Assistant Principal and Director of Guidance. I'm confident Mr. Thode and Ms. Fabian will have a beneficial impact in leading and guiding our students positively through their secondary school years.

During these trying times, there are three areas that will continue to be an important focus to our staff members as we navigate the upcoming year for our students:

**Power of Positive Team** – One thing we all learned this past year is the importance of Positivity. This is true in normal times, but when systems and communities are under stress the need for positivity becomes even more critical. Our entire school system, the greater CM community, and most importantly your children will be looking to all of us as role models in that.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity (DEI)** – Societal issues have rightfully brought this conversation to the forefront in recent times. In addition, inequities have been exacerbated in education due to the forced transition to distance learning in March of 2020. Our District will be starting a DEI committee to address these issues in our community.

**Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** – The mental health well-being of our students and staff is of paramount importance. This pandemic has certainly intensified many issues around anxiety and depression amongst our youth that were already approaching alarming rates. Supports for our students and all staff have been at the forefront of planning for a return to school. This need to support students and each other has never been as important as it is today.

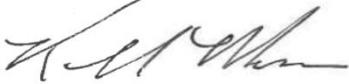
Center Moriches is a special place filled with much success and even greater potential. District administration presently is working in concert with the Board of Education to develop goals for the school year. The top priority will remain consistent – maximizing student achievement and well-being. Our role as educators is to assist each student in reaching his/her own full potential. As parents and members of our community, you play a key role in this development.

This summer, while our students were not in attendance, the administration, faculty, clerical staff, and custodial crew were hard at work to ensure the smooth opening of our schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Be assured we have done all we can to ensure our schools remain as safe as possible. We are excited to meet the students joining us for the first time, and to welcome back our returning scholars. Our instructional staff has been hard at work preparing lesson plans, revising curriculum, examining new programs and technology integration initiatives, with the goal of providing a high-quality education for all.

The 2020-2021 district calendar is ever evolving, please refer to the District website and social media accounts often <http://www.cmschools.org> and follow me on Twitter @CMSchools\_Super to stay informed and updated in the happenings of our busy year ahead.

With your support the 2020 - 21 school year will be a successful one for all students.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Masera', written in a cursive style.

Ronald M. Masera  
Superintendent of Schools