

**STERLING HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
501 S. WARWICK ROAD, SOMERDALE, NEW JERSEY 08083-2175  
PHONE (856) 784-1287 FAX (856) 784-7823

Matthew Sheehan  
Superintendent



July 6, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

I hope that you are having a great start to your summer and were able to enjoy a Fourth of July Celebration with family and friends. We overcame many challenges this past year and know that we have much work to do to prepare for the 2021-22 school year. The efforts of our Administration and staff have been amazing, only to be matched by our students and their parents and guardians. We are reflecting upon the past year and are setting goals for the upcoming year to meet the needs of our students.

The Sterling Community has a history of pulling together to support our students and I couldn't be prouder of what we accomplished during the past sixteen months. We endured many great tests, fought through adversity, and thrived during a global pandemic that effected every facet of our lives. We have learned so much about sacrifice, being resilient, and creating new ways to share experiences both in and outside of school. Staff and students developed remote learning skills that will serve them well in school, work, and socially for years to come.

Governor Murphy announced in May that he was rescinding Executive Order # 175 related to Remote Instruction. Parents and guardians will not be able to opt-out of in-person instruction. In June the New Jersey Department of Education and NJ Department of Health released The Road Forward, this is a guide with strategies for a return to full-day, full-time, in -person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. The State is committed to a resumption of normalcy this upcoming school year and will continue to provide guidance as we seek to return all students to a traditional, full day of instruction.

Over the past year we have made the health of our students and staff our top priority. We have learned that we need the students and our staff in the building, interacting, and supporting one another. There is no substitute for in-person instruction and know that the full opening of school is vital to the well-being of our students. We understand how valuable the total high school experience is to the development and well-being of our students.

We want to thank you in advance for your understanding and partnership. We ask that you allow us to gather information and to prepare a plan for our safe return to school. We encourage you to enjoy your summer break, continue to make informed decisions, and visit our website at [www.sterling.k12.nj.us](http://www.sterling.k12.nj.us). Contact my office at (856) 784-1287 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Sheehan  
Superintendent