



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS
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To our Toms River Regional Schools parents and families:

I hope your holiday season was well spent and that you were able to enjoy quality time with loved ones. We now embark on a new year, full of hope, which is also a time of transition for Toms River Regional Schools. And that's where I come in.

Many of you might know that I served as interim superintendent of this district in 2013, and it's a pleasure and honor for me to be back in this role once more. Certainly, this is a different district than the one I left some eight years ago; Superintendent David Healy and his team helped usher in an era of great stability, and in many ways I feel as though I've inherited something of a well-oiled machine. For that I am grateful. And one thing that's never changed is the remarkable collection of teachers and staff members who comprise TRRS. It's been wonderful to encounter familiar faces, and also to meet so many new folks who are clearly working to uphold this district's well-earned reputation for excellence in education.

Nevertheless, we do face challenges ahead. We remain in the thick of an ongoing state aid crisis that can and, unfortunately, most likely *will* have a significant and adverse impact on our operations. And we all continue to work within the context of a global pandemic, and must ensure the health and wellbeing of our students and each other while providing quality education through multiple platforms.

It is my promise to you that I will do my best to help steer this district through those challenges and any others that may arise, while not getting in the way of what is clearly working. I am certain already that I'll be backed and guided by a dedicated, passionate, and extremely knowledgeable school board and administrative leadership team. And as a longtime resident of this area with more than just professional ties to this district, I know full well how supportive, proactive, and amazing this community is, and I will humbly rely on your patience, support, and understanding in the coming months.

Though my title includes the word "interim" and while I acknowledge this role is temporary, the responsibility of transitioning TRRS forward has long-term and far-reaching implications. The school board and you-- this community-- have entrusted me to lead one of the largest school districts in New Jersey, at a very sensitive time, and I approach this position seriously, but also with a sense of joy that comes with returning to something familiar, and anticipation for what lies ahead.

It's good to be back, and I look forward to making the second half of this school year and beyond a positive experience for you and your children.

Regards,

Thomas Gialanella

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Interim Superintendent of Schools
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