



**TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS**  
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August 30, 2021

To our Toms River Regional Schools staff, parents, and families:

I am truly honored and humbled to be leading Toms River Regional Schools into the 2021-2022 school year. Since I officially [took over this position](#) on August 1, I've been welcomed with open arms while visiting our schools, meeting our families and community members, and consulting with our fantastic leadership team. I am happy to be here, and I am sincerely committed to doing the best I can to both maintain the great accomplishments of this district and help move it forward during uncertain times.

And these are indeed uncertain times, albeit filled with excitement and optimism. Our leadership team-- in consultation with our community partners and health experts-- is doing our best to be reactive in response to ever-evolving guidance; proactive by anticipating the needs and interests of our school community in developing our plan heading into the year; flexible in making that plan fluid; and transparent in communicating our plan properly.

The details of the ongoing planning process can be seen in our [K-12 Road Forward Parent/Guardian Handbook](#), our responses to the latest mandates, and by providing updates to our [#TRSafeReturn web page](#), as well as our school-based communication. My hope is that these resources continue to answer any lingering questions you might have. If, however, any questions or concerns remain as we approach the start of this year, I encourage you to reach out to my office or to your school directly.

It's no secret that, in addition to these being uncertain times, they've also become quite contentious, with strong opinions on an appropriate and collective response to this ongoing pandemic. In addition to my goal to bring stability as a bridge to new leadership, I also seek to maintain a spirit of civility, kindness, and tolerance for our district, in our in-person and virtual interactions, and with the health and well-being of our students and staff at the front of our minds.

Now back to that excitement and optimism. We're on the verge of returning to full-time, in-person learning for the first time in 18 months, many of our buildings and spaces have been upgraded thanks to ongoing [referendum-based work](#), and the more I meet and get to know the staff, families, and students who make up this district, the more I'm convinced that wonderful things are in store. I'm genuinely excited to see what 2021-2022 brings, I'm honored to be at the helm for this journey, and I wish you all a fantastic school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Genco  
Superintendent of Schools