

**KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Jeannine DeFalco  
*Superintendent*

Dana Carroll  
*Vice Principal*

Good afternoon! It is hard to believe that the 2019-2020 school year is over. The sixth grade virtual promotion ceremony was held last evening and school is officially out, so let Summer Break 2020 begin! Congratulations to our sixth graders who have officially completed elementary school! We wish you success in middle school and hope you come back and visit all of us at Knowlton. Just a reminder that Mrs. Carroll and I, along with Mrs. Fahy, will be delivering promotion certificates and awards on Wednesday starting at 10AM so be on the lookout for us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, feedback and thoughts that you have shared over the past few months. I personally learn from everything that you share and incorporate it into my thinking and as a consideration when it comes to planning. The latter part of the school year will definitely go into the history books. While it created a huge sense of loss for many, especially for our sixth graders- sixth grade trips, activities, yearbook signing, middle school visitation and an in person promotion ceremony with cheering family and friends in attendance - it also created resilience and strengthened family ties. I know our teachers and staff were never more committed and worked even harder for their students, with each other and for the Knowlton community. There are so many lessons to learn from the experience, as there were many silver linings that we took advantage of. With faculty and staff especially, we significantly enhanced our talent and capabilities using technology and software platforms that advanced student achievement. The professional conversations and on line professional development that faculty and staff participated in was comprehensive, with priceless results that will benefit students for many years to come. It also created a wonderful sense of community and family within our district team of administrators and educators.

Congratulations to Mr. Robert Dally and Mrs. Susan Acker on their retirement. We wish them both well and will miss them. We have a few staffing changes that will occur at KTES next year. At this time, Mrs. Plunkett is slated to teach third grade with Mrs. Kwasnik and Mrs. Werner will return to second grade with Mrs. Garrison. Our fifth and sixth grade collaboration team will include Mrs. Baker, Mr. Ferry, Ms. Maxman and Mrs. Jones. We are currently looking to fill the positions of World Language teacher and Music Maternity leave.

We eagerly await the guidance that is coming from the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health related to what school will/can look like in the Fall. Four weeks ago, county superintendents established three working groups that were challenged to dig deep and examine questions, concerns and ways to create plans for safely educating students in the Fall. The three groups included – Preschool/Kindergarten, Elementary School and Middle/High School. I served on both the Preschool/Kindergarten and Elementary groups. Some of the areas examined in each working group were: safety in a live environment, virtual/remote instruction, equity, meeting social-emotional needs and building community. Our reopening school model will take shape once the State of New Jersey DOE provides the guidance we have been promised. In addition to the NJ Department of Education Guidance, we will look to the NJ Department of Health, the Warren County Health Department, surveys from parents and staff, as well as, comments and guidance from the School Board. I will keep everyone updated as more information is released and our reopening model takes shape. Be on the lookout for a parent survey soon.

Get out and enjoy the sunshine today! Thank you for your assistance in meeting all the challenges of this school year. Your time, energy and perseverance was amazing. Enjoy the summer!

Sincerely,

*Jeannine DeFalco*