



## **Voorhees Township Public Schools**

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*Superintendent of Schools*  
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Dear Voorhees Township Community,

The year 2020 has been full of unforeseen and unimaginable events. First, the impact of the Covid-19 virus has been felt across the world. The pandemic has forced us to experience the first widespread quarantine in one hundred years. Despite this unique challenge, the Voorhees Township Community has met this challenge with professionalism, dignity, and respect for others. We have bound together to support one another. Remote learning has not been simple to implement, and as a district, we have gained perspective that will inform future actions if schools are required to continue in remote learning protocol. However, the full measure of the emotional toll the quarantine has taken on our children is still yet unknown. We can tell that it has most certainly been stressful for many.

Unfortunately, the pandemic and quarantine is no longer the only current event contributing to an emotional strain on our students and community. Widespread protests and demonstrations supporting equality across the nation have brought widespread attention to the more difficult lived experiences of black Americans. Many of our largest cities are experiencing a combination of legitimate peaceful protest as well as violence and destruction. Please know our hearts go out to everyone impacted by inequality. The Voorhees Township School District stands united in support of equality for all. We stand together and embrace our diversity as a strength!

The Voorhees Township Public Schools recognize and celebrate our local diversity. Although I have been a member of this great community for less than a year, it is overwhelmingly evident that we are very fortunate. Fortunate to be in a community where empathy and respect for all are centermost themes for the citizens. The school board, administration, and staff celebrate diversity. We are proud to come together as one when facing any challenge and are only satisfied when all of us are successful.

We are prepared to help any member of our community should the emotional toll of the events of 2020 become overwhelming. I am so proud that the counselors and staff members contacted me to offer their services. Additionally, I have been overcome with pride at the countless parents and community members with expertise in the field of mental health who have contacted me to ask how they can be of service to our students. Therefore, I am pleased to be able to offer support to anyone in need. If you are concerned about the impact the current

events are having on your child, please contact my office to inquire about services available to your family.

Sincerely,

David N. Gentile Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools