



Office of the Superintendent

John E. Bormann, Ed. D.

January 25, 2016

Dear Friends and Family of the Rumson School District,

Unbelievably, here we are about halfway through the school year and in reflection it has been a productive one thus far. With new schedules, instructional programs, extracurricular activities, and staffing underway it is time to look forward and begin planning next steps in continuing our district on the path to elevated excellence. I am very excited to share some amazing opportunities the Rumson Borough School District has become involved in and to ask you for your support in these initiatives as we move forward.

- On January 11, 2016 the Rumson Borough School District received notification that its application had been accepted and we were selected as COHORT 3 members of the *innovateNJ* Community. In a letter from the New Jersey Department of Education, Assistant Commissioner Popoff congratulates our district and shares that, “as a part of the development of a network of innovative school districts, the *innovateNJ* initiative seeks to identify innovative programs, practices, and models across the state of New Jersey. Embarking on its third year, the initiative has inducted the Rumson Borough School District due to its commitment to providing, designing, and implementing innovative school environments.” This recognition has been triggered through our Google/Chromebook initiative, 6th Grade STEM Pilot Program, introduction to Genius Hour (project-based learning) for our 4th and 5th grades, and development of College & Career readiness courses for grades 4-8. Visit (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/innovateNJ/community/>) to learn more about this initiative.
- On November 20, 2015 the Rumson Borough School District was welcomed to Sustainable Schools for New Jersey. According to the program’s website (<http://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/about/>) “Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for New Jersey public schools that want to go green, conserve resources and take steps to create a brighter future, one school at a time. Launched in fall 2014, we are a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward schools as they pursue sustainability programs.” Our district is currently using various initiatives, such as the renovation of our greenhouse and pond, to work towards bronze level certification.
- On December 11, 2015 a letter was sent out outlining changes in our school nutrition procedures. I am happy to report that we have now fully doubled the capabilities of our food service lines in order to minimize students’ time on line to get food and maximize their time to eat lunch and participate in recess. We are seeing significant improvements in this area. We are now looking to review the promotion of good nutrition and wellness habits in our students. Please stay tuned to hear more about this.

As you can see, we are launching some exciting initiatives in the district. At this point we are looking to form a district/school committee in each of these areas and hope to begin meeting in February. The purpose of these committees is to have full stakeholder input into the outcomes of these initiatives.

Please contact Ms. Denise Guerci, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, at 732- 842-4747 or dguerci@rumsonschool.org to indicate which committee you are interested in. Please be prepared to supply your name, phone number, e-mail address, school your child attends, and which committee you are interested in by February 5, 2016. Thank you for your anticipated support in these initiatives.

With pride,
Dr. John E. Bormann
Superintendent