June 18th, 2020

Dear Forest Parents,

On our final day of school of this crazy year, I want to thank the families and FAS staff who have helped deliver a virtual learning experience to the children for the last several months. I know there were many frustrations and difficulties in this virtual platform of learning, but we navigated these uncharted waters together. We hit some road bumps and had many glitches, but we were able to work together to deliver instruction to our youngsters. While this school year is just ending, our staff is already actively planning for the next school year and committees are preparing for the opening of school in September, however that may look; live, virtual, or a hybrid of both.

I sincerely thank the Forest parents for stepping up to help your children in any way possible during this quarantine period. You became our "honorary teachers" during the distance learning period and you were vital participants in your child's education. We relied upon you for your assistance even when you had to juggle your own virtual meetings and jobs, while supporting your children at home. We truly appreciate your efforts which directly benefited your children. It’s not easy teaching your own children, so we applaud all that you did!

I have to thank our Home & School Co-Presidents, Hilary Trevenen and Yasamine Viehland, who have done an outstanding job during this unusual school year. They have worked tirelessly to support FAS, both before and after the school closure. We also thank all of our FAHSA Committee Chairs and the endless number of volunteers that provided, time, effort, and funding to help make Forest Avenue the great school that it is.

Thank you to the Forest staff who worked around the clock learning new technologies while at home separated from each other. The teaching profession was turned upside down over the past few months and this group figured out a way to provide a very strong instructional program in very little time. They worked so hard over the past several months, under challenging circumstances, to keep the learning process moving forward. I cannot thank or appreciate them more!

We cannot forget our office staff and custodians who came in at times over the past few months. Ms. Ciccone came in to work as much as she was allowed to both wrap up the school year while compiling class lists for Move-Up Day and setting up material orders to be ready for the new school year. Our custodians, Mr. Rasheed and Mr. Kilgen have continued to clean, care for the grounds, and complete maintenance projects throughout the building. They have already begun the process of preparing the classrooms in preparation of our eventual live re-opening.

I hope you have a very happy and enjoyable summer! Best of luck to our outgoing second grade students!
for success at RAS next year. It was quite a sight to see you all at the car parade! Your school spirit is amazing! Make sure you come back to visit FAS!

Not that I am suggesting that anyone is ready for September, but since many parents have asked about next year’s calendar, I have provided a link to the 2020-2021 district school calendar for your convenience:


Be on the lookout for updates throughout the summer months!

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Murphy
Principal