

August 30, 2020

Superintendent Meloche, President Saidel, Vice-President Neary, and Members of the Cherry Hill Board of Education
Cherry Hill Public Schools
Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace
Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034

We want to thank you for all of the time and energy you have devoted to helping move us all forward toward learning together. We recognize that it has been a more difficult endeavor than ever before.

We must also stress that we share several concerns. First, we need adequate time to prepare for this year's learning platforms in order to support students, their families, and each other. We have much more to learn in this environment even after some of us used time this summer to take professional development courses specific to anticipated needs such as culturally responsive teaching and remote learning.

Second, and most paramount is the health and safety of staff and students. We share concerns about proper ventilation, PPE, and testing. We are grateful for the many changes being made to ensure students and staff will be protected such as students wearing masks and allowing for social distancing. However, in some cases staff and students will be exposed to students not required to wear masks. Exemptions, poor ventilation and lack of testing all put our community at greater risk. Add to this the expectation that Encore teachers are expected to push into multiple classrooms between multiple schools and the risk increases yet again.

It is our wish to return safely to school. We miss our students and are eager to reconnect with families and welcome new families. Our final concern is for the safety of our students when teachers need to be absent. How will they be protected when teachers are sick? We share concerns about the protocols when substitutes are needed in the building.

Your support is critical to the success of our students. We are all facing huge challenges together. We again thank you for your efforts and urge you to make accommodations that allow us to be healthy and effective educators.

CHEA Members of Horace Mann Elementary School