



# MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1 497 WOODACRES DR., MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092

908-232-3232

[WWW.MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.MOUNTAINSIDESCHOOLS.ORG)

MRS. JANET WALLING — SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

June 15, 2020

Mountainside Parents & Guardians:

Good afternoon and I hope that you are all well. It is hard to believe that we have reached the last few days of our school year. I know that this had been a year like NO other in so many ways and I truly need to take a moment to thank each and every one of you. Your dedication, resilience, creativity, and support for our staff, your children, and each other has known no bounds, and has been noticed and very much appreciated!

As we come to the end of our year, I would like to recognize the dedication and efforts of our teachers and staff as they have worked tirelessly to maintain connections and traditions for our students, especially over the past few weeks. Our amazing virtual field days, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade “trip” to visit Deerfield, a Zoom middle school orientation for our upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders, a virtual bike rodeo, live middle school recognition ceremonies which took place today, and many, many more activities were planned and delivered to help our students remain connected as a school community. This coming week brings even more important Mountainside traditions -- from our Virtual Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm to our first ever Virtual 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Clap Out on Thursday. In addition, we are already busy planning for the opportunity to celebrate our graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders with a very special in-person recognition program on July 14<sup>th</sup>

While we understand that these activities cannot replace celebrating in person, I am so very pleased that we were able to maintain many of these traditions in some form and want to thank the staff for their efforts to put these all together.

I know that we still have a great deal of uncertainty ahead of us, especially in terms of what September will look like, but I promise you that we will continue forward as a connected community and I will keep you informed throughout the summer as we receive more guidance from the NJDOE and our plans progress. To assist us along these lines, we have put together parent surveys that I would like to ask you to complete. There are two separate surveys that are hyperlinked below. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts and feedback.

**Distance Learning Survey** This survey was created to gather your feedback and thoughts regarding our time on distance learning. This information will be used to help us adjust programming and delivery in the event that we need to utilize a virtual format in the future. If you have more than one child attending Mountainside schools, please fill out a separate survey for each child

**Reopening Survey** This survey was created to provide you with an opportunity to share your input towards our planning for a safe reopening of our schools. Please fill out one survey per family.

I would like to wish you and your family lots of WELL DESERVED time off this summer to rest, relax and recharge!

I am so very hopeful to **see** and **be** with everyone back at Beechwood and Deerfield in September!

*Janet Walling*