

Parents/Guardians,

Entering my twenty-sixth year in education and ninth year as principal of this great school, I would have never believed I would open up my welcome back letter to our parents and students with..."I am excited to welcome you to the 2020 - 2021 school year at South Brunswick High School **where we will be starting instruction virtually.**" Wow - there is always a first!

September 8th will be here before we know it, and though we will be using tools like Zoom and Google Meet to mostly interact with students, our teachers and staff are as excited as ever to provide the best instruction. Teachers have attended professional development seminars and workshops, and our district has invested in technological tools that will allow us to effectively engage with students. A traditional approach to our staff and students attending school in person is preferred, however we will do our best to ensure that your sons and daughters are learning content and skills that will help them succeed.

I am hopeful that over time, we will be able to return to students attending SBHS in person. Our district phase-in plan is solid, and we will be monitoring data closely and relying on experts in the fields of medicine, health and emergency management to help guide us. We will continue to communicate with you when new information is available.

I have heard from students in all grades that this is not the way to begin the school year. There are so many unknowns and we experienced that last year. However, the district is allowing our athletic teams and clubs to meet because they know how important those connections are to many students. Some of these meetings may be in person, while others may be done virtually. For us, health and safety will always dictate our next steps.

Oprah Winfrey once said, "Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment." When I read this quotation, I see opportunities for greatness from each of our students and staff. Yes, there will be hurdles and obstacles, but if we attack them with determination, passion and purpose, we will be prepared for the next task and opportunity. As a family, you can absolutely help by sitting down with your son(s) or daughter(s) and asking them to think about approaching this pandemic and the 2020-2021 school year with this in mind - determination, passion and purpose. I know it is easy to think about the incredible number of people world-wide who have fallen victim to the Covid-19 virus. We can think about social injustice and violence and how it is affecting our country. We can debate in-person instruction versus virtual instruction. We can also think about a dozen other topics in current events that must be addressed. Or, we can steer our conversations with our children to recognize positive, uplifting stories, acts of kindness, and heroism in the face of adversity.

Think about freshmen experiencing their first orientation with us - both virtually and in person. They are now a part of our Viking family. Our sophomores are starting to build their resumes and taking courses that will help them in the future, including Driver's Education. Our juniors are taking the National Merit Scholarship Program PSAT exam and starting to review and prepare for SAT/ACT tests, as they anticipate applying to the colleges of their dreams. They are also excited to earn their driver's license, feeling the anticipation of adulthood when behind the wheel of a car. Finally, there is a sense of pride as we begin to work with our seniors and the many committees who are planning the culminating events for the Class of 2021. Though it may be pressure-filled and it may be different for seniors, the idea of taking the most challenging courses, parking on campus, applying to colleges, waiting for those acceptance videos/letters/emails, and graduating is very exciting for them, their families, and our Viking community.

To all of our students and families, please know that our incredible staff is motivated to connect with each and every one of you. We cannot wait to build relationships, to build community, and to support students as they excel and flourish. Collectively, let us decide to do our “best at this moment” so that we are prepared for the future....for the next day, the next week, the next month, and the next year!

Together we will make the 2020-2021 a great school year!

Regards,

Peter Varela

Peter Varela
Principal
South Brunswick High School

Here is the schedule we will be following starting September 8th:

Alternating A/B Schedule: 70 minute Classes	
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Office Hours
On Fridays	VTN starts at 8:50 am
9:00 am - 10:10 am	1st Block
10:20 am - 11:30 am	2nd Block
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm - 1:40 pm	3rd Block
1:50 pm - 3:00 pm	4th Block
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Office Hours