

# SAFELY MOVING FORWARD

RESILIENCE IS OUR STRENGTH

July 31, 2020

Middletown School Community,

I'm writing this letter today filled with mixed emotions; excitement as well as a bit of sadness. Excitement as I think of the joys any new school year brings. When I think of the start of the school year, I'm flooded with so many special memories - many of them have happened here in Middletown, a place I fondly refer to as my home away from home. I'm also filled with some sadness. It's hard to not spend some time with this emotion when thinking about the 2020-2021 school year. While the new school year will begin in September, as scheduled, it will not begin with students in-person on our campuses.

Given the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to aligning with both the New York State Education Department and New York State Department of Health guidance, **we will open the new school year with 100% remote learning through at least October 2, 2020.** We will continue to monitor public health guidance and will not move into a new phase, in-person learning for K students, until conditions allow.

We will continue our efforts in creating a robust and engaging remote learning environment. We are confident we have plans in place to best ensure the 2020-2021 school year start is strong, providing our entire school community with the social-emotional support, and the necessary technology needed for our learning community to thrive.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to communicate with our school community in a timely manner. You can read the entire district plan for re-entry by visiting:

[www.middletowncityschools.org/return](http://www.middletowncityschools.org/return)

Please continue to visit our website and Facebook pages as additional guidance will be published, as the response evolves, throughout the latter part of the summer and into the fall.

Our team appreciates your understanding, support and patience as we navigate this challenge together. We are partners in educating our students and are anxiously awaiting the time when we can welcome our students and families back to our campus locations.

With respect,

Richard Del Moro, Superintendent of Schools