

SOUTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear South Brunswick School Community,

It has been an incredible first month in South Brunswick. In only a short time, I have been made to feel at home and welcomed by everyone. These few weeks have provided me with the opportunity to visit every school, meet with all of the district leadership and spend time learning about the traditions and happenings in the district. I have been impressed and so pleased by the mindset towards being a district of excellence. I was even more pleased to see firsthand that it actually is a district focused on excellence and one excited by doing great things for our youth.

During my visitations to each of the schools (even while in the summer when heavy cleaning and moving is under way), you get a strong sense of the pride in ownership and high level education that occurs within the walls. During my mini tour of South Brunswick, it was evident that even with the strong programs and outcomes achieved, there is an eagerness for innovation and determination to explore stronger systems and possibilities for our students. As I would leave one building on the way to the next, my internal reflections always put a smile on my face and I was just excited to get to the next location and learn more. A great first month indeed!

As you may have heard, this is not my first South Brunswick experience. In 1992, I began my career in South Brunswick as a new teacher – one of the inaugural staff to open Indian Fields Elementary School that year. After spending three years at Indian Fields, I moved to Monmouth Junction Elementary School initially as a teacher and then appointed as the Assistant Principal. A few years later, when the South Brunswick Upper Elementary School was opened, I was appointed Assistant Principal of the school.

During my six years in South Brunswick, I am proud to say I learned what it meant to be an educator. In 1998, I was hired as a Principal in the West Orange Public School System and then moved to West Windsor-Plainsboro School District serving first as a Principal and then Director of Elementary Education. For the last eight years, I served as the Superintendent of Schools in Rumson and most recently in Millstone Township. In all of my educational experiences, I have found myself comparing each current setting to that of South Brunswick. In all cases, I was able to use those strong South Brunswick learnings and infuse them into improving whatever system I was currently working within. Being back where it all began brings a comfort that is hard to measure. This was further made real in this first month while meeting so many people.

One of the first official tasks I was asked to consider was to work on developing a district theme. This is not something I took lightly and, rather, spent time reflecting on what message would be the right message to connect with all stakeholders in SB inclusive of staff, parents and students. The theme, “My approach creates the climate; my mood makes the weather. ~ Make it a sunny day!” originates from a powerful quote from Haim Ginott, a great educator and psychologist of his time. In its simplest meaning, each of us owns and can impact how situations conclude, or how someone may personally feel. It becomes our own responsibility to consider that our actions can change the game; that our behaviors can

bring smiles or sorrow - so let us all choose big smiles, bright sun and the chance to make every day special for a child.

With every bit of sincerity in my bones, I share with you that I am vested in this district in every way. I commit to working with our school community to not only continue the successes South Brunswick has grown accustomed to expect, but to identify many new ones as well. It is my pleasure, my honor and with gratitude that I am joining you on this journey.

I hope to see many of you tomorrow at National Night Out, and I look forward to the many opportunities that will follow to meet both you and your children.

Enjoy Every Day and make each one a sunny day, regardless of what Mother Nature decides.

With Sincere Regards,

Scott Feder
Superintendent of Schools