



# Little Falls Township Public Schools

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Dear Families,

Typically, I write at this time of year to wish you a healthy summer and highlight what we were able to accomplish together. This year, my letter will be a bit different.

While there is plenty to celebrate like being named a NJDOE Lighthouse District, receiving a Blue Ribbon Of Excellence Award at School #3, and having our EVERYONE COUNTS video featured at the Garden State Film Festival, our greatest achievement is not one of quantitative measure. It is instead the quality of relationships, instruction, and vision that allowed us to persevere during uncertain times. No one knew in March when we closed our door for Covid-19, that virtual learning would continue for the remainder of the school year. In spite of that, we worked together; school, home, and community to rally around our students. Jointly and through systemic and systematic communication and virtual learning execution we succeeded despite the pandemic. Parents, teachers and administrators alike balanced working from home, teaching students/children, caring for sick family members, running households, and some working on the front line.

Then, once we felt as if we were headed for the finish line we were faced with yet more unsettling times. Our students were exposed to acts of bias and violence. I want to make sure that you all know our district is unwavering in its commitment to further our teaching about citizenship, social justice, racism, and inequality through an already comprehensive curriculum and ongoing professional development. This summer, our curriculum will be revised to reflect newly adopted NJDOE New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) that consider multiple perspectives, value diversity, and promote cultural understanding.

Conversations on these topics with children, and even adults, can be difficult. To assist, I am attaching two resources that I hope you find useful:

<https://socialjusticebooks.org>

<https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/2019-01TT-Reading-For-Social-Justice-Guide.pdf>

As we open the door to summer, I remind you to check social media and our website [www.lfschools.org](http://www.lfschools.org) for announcements. This is also a great way to view any of the outstanding events that occurred during our virtual learning period that you may have missed. Students and advisors worked tirelessly to create these memorable moments.

I continue to be proud and honored to serve as the Superintendent of Schools in the wonderful community of Little Falls. I wish you and your families health and peace. May this summer bring you fond memories, treasured times, and safe encounters.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Marinelli".

Tracey Marinelli

TM:am



One District... One Team... One Vision...  
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[www.lfschools.org](http://www.lfschools.org)