



LESTER C. NOECKER SCHOOL

ROSELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 19, 2020

Dear Noecker Families,

I hope this email finds all Noecker families well as we approach the final stretch of the summer break. I have enjoyed spending time with family watching old movies, playing board games, and having great conversations. Having my teenage daughters around more, reminded me of how bad my “dad jokes” are getting by the day. Teens, what a tough crowd.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

In June, the New Jersey Department of Education published “The Road Back.” In it, the State provided schools with a framework for reopening. One of the most critical areas they outlined was social-emotional learning (SEL). The Road Back describes it as essential to “re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning.” So what is SEL? According to [understood.org](https://www.understood.org), “Social-emotional learning is the process of developing and using social and emotional skills. It’s the skillset we use to cope with feelings, set goals, make decisions, and get along with—and feel empathy for—others.” Over the past month our SEL Committee has discussed and brainstormed how to best address SEL. This endeavor will be an “all hands on deck” approach come September. SEL will be weaved into instruction, communicated using a common language via e-blasts, posts on our website, and in many other ways. Our goal is to help students further develop these skills. When we take care of their social and emotional needs, students learn more effectively.

Tomorrow, August 20th at 7:00 pm join us for the Open Forum on hybrid and remote instruction, special education instruction, and procedures for September. Although the presentation will focus on multiple areas, we will also discuss SEL and provide a more detailed description of what we have in store and, more importantly, you will get to hear from some of our wonderful teachers. Please click [here](#) to be directed to the Zoom link for the Open Forum.

Pre-September

In an effort to make September as seamless as possible, please begin to discuss with your child how school will look a bit different this year. Hopefully you have had conversations with them already about the importance of wearing their mask and maintaining social distance. We want to normalize this new reality and your conversations at home will help tremendously. Here are two short articles from pbs.org that may help, especially with our younger students:

[10 tips for talking about COVID-19 with your kids](#)

[Why Are People Wearing Masks? Answering Your Child's Questions](#)

Acknowledgments

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the efforts of our staff throughout the summer. They have participated in various committees, multiple Zoom meetings, and they have played an integral part in planning for our reopening. In addition, I would like to recognize the support that we have received from the HSA. It is much appreciated, especially during these unprecedented times. I look forward to our continued partnership. Lastly, to our Board of Education, our Superintendent, staff, and all Noecker families, thank you for your warm welcome. I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Sandoval". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Raul Sandoval