



June 8, 2021

Students, Families, and Staff:

I believe we can all agree the 2020-2021 school year was unlike any other. The COVID-19 pandemic challenged our physical, social, and emotional well-being and forced us to redefine education. With safety of students and staff as our main concern, district leadership worked tirelessly to create action plans and learning options that would ensure our school year could move forward... even if it looked different than we anticipated. Every decision made presented new challenges that impacted all members of our educational community, and our #BobcatNation pressed forward through it all.

As the summer approaches, we are all craving the same thing: normalcy. With positive cases on the decline and restrictions relaxing, the 2021-2022 school year should help us return to the normal routine we have been hoping for. When we return in August, Bangor Township School intends to **have traditional school days with in-person learning**, student locker usage, a conventional lunch period and recess, and all the other things that go along with a traditional school day and year. We were able to remove desk shields for the end of our current school year, and we hope we can say "good-bye" to masks in the near future. Our students need the normal routine back, and we are ready to see their smiling faces again.

This year has taught us a lesson in perseverance, but I believe another important lesson learned is that of gratitude. Thank you for your passion and patience for our students and their well-being. Thank you for trusting us with the safety, care, and education of your children. Thank you for staying engaged and motivated through every change and barrier we encountered. We hope we reinforced your trust in us throughout the pandemic and helped to assist you inside and outside of the classroom during this unprecedented time. Our ability to work together and to trust each other is what makes our school district and community so exceptional.

Enjoy your summer, and stay safe, Bobcats! We look forward to **opening our doors on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup> for a normal in-person school year.**

Sincerely,  
Matt Schmidt  
Superintendent of Bangor Township Schools