

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Congratulations on successfully navigating another school year and special congratulations to all of our graduating high school seniors and their families! It is very hard to believe that another school year has flashed by so quickly. In anticipation of everyone being very busy this summer and September being here before we know it, I wanted to communicate some information related to the 2016-2017 school year. Please be advised of each item below.

- **Summer Assignments:** High school counselors contact students if they do not get their first choice AP elective so that they know what course(s) to do summer work for. Students who need confirmation on this subject should contact the District Supervisor of School Counseling, Jillian Shadis via email at jshadis@bernardsboe.com. Summer assignments are posted at this link: http://www.bernardsboe.com/curriculum/summer_assignments/.
- **Technology Steering Committee:** A technology steering committee is being formed to evaluate a variety of issues surrounding the use of technology in our district. The committee will be comprised of district staff, administrators, Board of Education members, students and parents. The committee will be meeting to develop recommendations related to key questions associated with technology. One of the main questions will be: should the district implement a 1:1 environment? A 1:1 environment means that each student would have their own computing device (such as a Chromebook). Clearly if the district were to move in this direction many other questions would need to be addressed such as: At what grade level would this begin? Would students take the device home? What about the district's current BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy? How would the district pay for this? In order to provide the steering committee with information, a survey will be developed this summer and distributed in the fall – please be on the lookout for it.
- **School Bus Consolidation:** During the 2015-2016 school year the district learned that there would be a significant increase in the cost of providing bus service to school for 2016-2017. To minimize the impact of the increase, the district is seeking to provide similar service with fewer buses. In order to reduce the number of buses more students will be assigned to each bus to occupy seats that were previously unfilled. The result will be that fewer buses and drivers are needed, creating efficiency and saving money, but some route times may be longer. We are seeking to strike the best possible balance between financial savings and student ride times for next school year.
- **Early Dismissal Days for 2016-2017:**
 - The administrative team will be meeting in mid-July and planning professional development for the staff, it is anticipated that there will be up to four K-12 early dismissal dates for professional development announced after the planning meetings are completed.
 - Six K-5 early dismissal days are planned for elementary school parent/teacher conferences on the following dates: November 18, 21, and 22, and March 28, 29, and 30. November 21 and March 29 will be evening conferences; the other dates will be for daytime conferences.

Thank you for your attention. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,



Nick Markarian