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Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., *Superintendent*
Jason M. Bohm, CPA, *Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

jhart@readington.k12.nj.us
jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us

P.O. Box 807 • 52 Readington Road • Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 • (908)-534-2195 • (908) 349-3042 fax

June 3, 2020

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

As many of you know, the Governor's office issued a statement allowing modified in-person graduations on or after July 6th. Unfortunately, after thoughtful review and consideration of guidance from the Department of Education, the difficult decision has been made to not host an in-person graduation ceremony for our 8th graders. The DOE guidance outlines significant restrictions and obstacles for in-person graduations making it such that any option would not allow 8th graders and families to all attend the celebration together in a manner that truly honors this milestone for our students. Moreover, we remain concerned about the health and safety of our school community, and we feel an in-person graduation could compromise the wellbeing of not only our students, but also our families and staff. I realize this is disappointing news; however, we believe our students are resilient and have a solid understanding of the unforeseeable events that have led to this decision.

The district continues to plan a virtual graduation video that will be a nice keepsake for each of your children. Further, we have decided to host an outdoor car parade for our 8th grade graduates on **June 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.** Each 8th grader and their family will be celebrated in a parade through the HBS/RMS school campus. This is completely voluntary. If you choose to attend please note the following guidelines:

- You are limited to 1 car per 8th grade graduate;
- Arrive at approximately 3:45 p.m.;
- Pull into the HBS driveway and follow traffic officers' direction to the HBS parking lot where you will begin to line up accordingly;
- Please remember to remain in your car;
- Place a window sign with your graduate's name on the passenger side window.
- Once your child's name is announced you will drive through the parade area and exit the RMS parking lot.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work through this most unusual time. Our students and families have been met with significant challenges over the course of the year and our Readington community continues to be amazingly resilient.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools