



# MERCER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Dear Mercer Families,

On behalf of the school district, I want to express our sincere thank you to all the families of Mercer for a successful 2020-2021 school year. By entrusting us with your children, in-person, every school day, you allowed academic learning to take place in the classroom. Mercer students, like all students in Pennsylvania, lost 25% of their 2019-2020 school year due to the State mandated school closure. Yet, in anticipation of a school year wrought with so many unknowns and so much uncertainty, such as NOT KNOWING if extracurricular activities would be held, and KNOWING students would have to wear masks all day long, you sent your children back to school to receive in-person instruction. Through all of the variables of Chromebooks and tablets, Google Classroom, and random building closures due to COVID cases, these students demonstrated both resilience and perseverance. This is no doubt a direct result of good families.

Lastly, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our faculty, staff, building administration, and school board for creating a safe school environment where our students were challenged intellectually. It is through caring and commitment to students that makes Mercer School District a special place.

Accompanying this letter you will find two (2) additional documents, *The ARP Health and Safety Plan* and the *Return to School FAQs for 2021-2022*. Mercer Schools are continuing to move towards normalcy in providing education to the youth of Mercer as PA and the country move out of the global pandemic. To that end, both the Health and Safety Plan and FAQ documents mirror that effort as we approach the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

Again, thank you for your efforts this past school year and your continuing support of our efforts to provide the best education possible to the youth of Mercer. It is my hope that the school district will be able to continue to return to normalcy and another successful school year beginning this fall.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Rowe, Jr., Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Mercer Area School District