

Dear Floral Park-Bellerose 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents, students and families:

I hope this letter finds all of you healthy and safe as we continue to navigate through this world-wide pandemic and all of the challenges it has created over the past three months. It is certainly hard to believe that we are now facing the end of a school year that has been different from anything any of us has ever faced before. As health and safety of our students and staff has always been our prime responsibility, never before have so many decisions been put to the test regarding safety during this Covid-19 pandemic. This year will certainly go down in the history books as a year of challenging decisions, uncertainty and flexibility; but also, a sense of family importance and community awareness and responsiveness. I commend all of you for rising to this challenge of whatever this pandemic has implicated or caused in your lives.

For our sixth-grade students and their teachers, this has been a unique year at best. Many of the celebrations and ceremonies were missed in person, and although our teachers and administrative team created virtual opportunities that were fun, creative and put together with their hearts and soul, we all know that it doesn't take the place of the person to person human contact that we so value and miss now more than ever in our lives. With that being said, we also want you to know that as a District, we are committed to a proper send off for our sixth grade students where they will have an opportunity to see their classmates and teachers as a whole group and not just their homeroom or two homerooms at a time. The Governor's current orders limit our ability to have all of our students together to celebrate their time in the Floral Park Bellerose School District and limit your ability to have your family and friends share that special moment with you and your child. As the Governor's decisions unfold on a regular basis, we will keep you informed along this planning process.

On an exciting note, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation parades begin on Friday (June 12<sup>th</sup>) at the Floral Park-Bellerose School and again on Monday, at John Lewis Childs School (June 15<sup>st</sup>). We are extremely appreciative of all those involved in the planning and preparations for what we know will be extraordinary and fun for our students and their families. A special thank you to our administrators, teachers, staff, and supportive PTA's for all you have done to create these special moments in history for our students!

A heartfelt Congratulations to you and your child as they complete this phase in their educational journey! Thank you as always for your continued support of our amazing school district.

Dr. Kathleen Sottile