September 3, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

The opening of the school year has kicked off well and we are very grateful to you for that. Being the first in our area to begin the academic year, many schools were no doubt looking at us so that they could re-strategize for their big day, and I think they could take some good advice from us. For the most part, things unfolded in the manner we planned; corrections so far have been minor and quickly resolved. I also want you to know that, though I have seen it myself, many teachers have reported to me about how cooperative and good-natured the students have been in dealing with the COVID-19 conditions on campus. This does not surprise me; it is the Patriot Way of doing things: stepping up and adapting to overcome is what Patriots do. As a school, it is vital for this positive attitude to also be a part of the academic dynamic.

The importance of attending and participating in remote classes during the current crisis cannot be overstated. Our program was set up so that teachers could afford students when learning at home all of the goings-on in classrooms. Our expectations include that students attend classes on time, assignments be completed, studying when classes are not in session, readying yourself for tests, and reaching out to teachers and friends when you need assistance (our staff is an incredible group of sympathetic and flexible people who are happy to help). Essentially, this is what normally happens at Lenape Valley. You know that grades speak volumes about students both in academic terms and as people. I encourage you to make your best effort. The satisfaction and success that comes from “giving it your best” is a great feeling, and the more you experience it, the more you will want to feel it.

Before I close, here are some informational items: tonight is Back-To-School Night, and school pictures are now September 15-18 during physical education classes. Students who are learning wholly remotely can have their pictures taken from 12:00 to 1:30 on campus on September 16 and 17.

We are in this together. Stand to your responsibilities, trust in your classmates and teachers, and we will get through this,

[Signature]

Thomas E. Claeys, Jr., Principal