

COVID Recognition-June 14, 2021

Students:

Our students were patient and flexible this past year and rose to the occasion as they always do. They are incredible and are the reason we adults choose to spend our lives working with them.

Parents:

They gave us grace and were patient and flexible as well, staying with us and being supportive in new situations they never had to deal with before. The school recognizes and appreciates you.

Hancock Health and Hancock Regional Hospital, Dr. Julia Compton, President of Hancock Physician Network, Steve Long, President and CEO of Hancock Health:

They offered support and guidance to the schools as well as the community and provided top-notch medical care to the area as needed.

Hancock County Health Dept-Crystal Baker, Office Manager and Preparedness Coordinator, Dr. Gary Sharp Hancock County Health Officer, Dr. Sandra Aspy retired County Health Officer:

Crystal was our connection to the Health Department throughout the year, helping us communicate back and forth as to guidelines and suggestions.

April Mattox-School Nurse and Sydney Smith-MS Health Clinic:

This is a challenging position in normal times let alone during a pandemic. April was the connection day-in and day-out to those in the Hancock County Health Department. They cared for students and staff, helped the administration team in decision-making and contact tracing, and assisted in the interpretation of CDC and Health Dept. guidelines.

Technology Staff-Vickie Osborne and Mike Spangler:

They did a tremendous job with all the needs of virtual learning, training teachers for virtual education, providing & updating student hardware, and being available as a help desk for students/parents with technical difficulties. They handled everything in an even-keeled fashion, including the ransomware attack the last couple weeks of school.

Transportation Department- Greg Turner, Chris Knoblock and all the bus drivers & monitors:

Thanks to Greg for driving routes when needed, Greg and Chris for securing sub bus drivers to keep us open (including drivers from Knightstown when they were closed) and to all our drivers and monitors for the masking and cleaning regulations you had to manage and for even driving two routes when it was necessary.

Food Services Department - Tracy Wilson and Cafeteria staff:

Not only did this group feed all of our kids every day when we were open, they continued to feed our students when we were not open or when kids were home learning virtually. They also had many extra cleaning precautions and worked extra hours to satisfy the government regulations to keep our students safe.

Chris Wilson, Charles Young and maintenance and custodial staff:

These men were responsible for cleaning up the entire school for deep cleaning as well as the day-to-day regular clean-ups that happen. Chris even worked in the lunchroom when we were short-staffed. They also kept the classrooms and buildings stocked with masks and cleaning supplies at all times.

Teachers and EH Educator's Association:

Our teachers worked extremely hard this past year for the sake of our students. Learning the art of virtual teaching on-the-fly, keeping two classrooms going at once, dealing with changing rules and expectations almost daily, helping with classroom sanitation protocols, assisting with students masking and cleanliness expectations, and assisting the administration with contact tracing when needed are just a few of the ways they went above and beyond.

Instructional Assistants:

Many of the extra duties incurred by the teachers were also added to the plates of our Instructional Assistants. They were especially essential in student support, providing that extra help and nurturing that some of our students need, whether doing this in-person or virtually.

School Secretaries- Kim Grant, Carrie Sutton, Shanna Sharp, Cathy Reynolds, Megan Whisman:

These ladies are the piece that keeps everyone glued together and going in the right direction. They are in the middle of all the mess and are incredible in what they do. Adding in hybrid, virtual and block scheduling this year made things like attendance and classroom coverage a massive challenge, but they rose to the occasion beautifully.

Athletic Dept-Aaron Spaulding, Cory Rainbolt, and Stacey Jones:

This group worked tirelessly to reschedule so many of the events that were cancelled throughout the entire year. It would have been easier to just miss them, but they know how important these events are to our students. They worked with ticketing limitations for solutions on how to get as many people as possible safely to our events as well, working with all the other schools who had different ways of doing this from us.

Joe Paxton and Michael Galyan:

We have by-far the finest streaming of athletic events of anyone around. Streaming of EH events allowed people to follow student activities when attendance limitations and health concerns made in-person attendance impossible. They provided a service that generated sponsorships to help support the athletic department during loss of gate revenue. Their dedication to providing an incredible quality product through sometimes difficult surroundings make them stand-outs.

School Administrators:

They had the task of taking unpopular and unpleasant information to the staff and students to keep everyone safe. They had to deal with positive cases and contact tracing. They were tremendous leaders, excellent role models and courageous people during this time.

Central Office Staff:

We were a little bit insulated from the front lines within the school buildings, but instead dealt with all the new rules and guidelines, supporting the staff, answering questions, thinking outside the box and problem-solving along the journey.

School Board:

They have been tremendous to work with and have willingly stepped back to allow the administrators the ability to direct our path. Their love of the school district and their judgement is well appreciated.