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Dear Blue Hills Community:

With spring arriving comes beautiful weather as everything begins to bloom. It is a new beginning as more people become vaccinated and all of our children are in-person at Blue Hills now. Next week, ask your child about our new electronic hall pass system, which is touch free that we will be piloting.

We are celebrating Teacher and Staff Appreciation week this week with different treats each day. Next week, we will be celebrating Nurses Day, too! Occasionally, it is nice to be recognized. It is also time to celebrate our seniors' debut that looks much different from last year. This year, we are proud to be able to plan some safe events to honor the Class of 2021.

We tried to hold a prom, but unfortunately, not enough tickets were sold. We are holding a Senior Awards night virtually on May 20 at 6 PM, our traditional Senior Field Day on June 2 and an in-person graduation on the turf field on Tuesday, June 8 with a rain date of June 9.

During the pandemic, our seniors have persistently demonstrated their amazing skills by building additions, decks, curbside delivery, fire pits, portrait of a teacher posters, earning nationally and globally recognized certifications and so much more. Thirteen (13) students were awarded medals in SkillsUSA District competition by demonstrating competency in their Career Technical Education (CTE) areas against ten other vocational technical schools in Massachusetts. Two seniors placed in Districts earning a bronze in Advertising and Design and gold in Photography.

We are planning for a summer SOA Evidence Based Programs grant that we received regarding the Educator Workforce Diversification focus area. We will use this grant for professional development for leadership and on culturally responsive hiring, recruitment, and retention. We will also develop and implement a strategic diversity, equity and inclusion plan. This aligns nicely with our Strategy plan objectives to "improve diversity among staff and faculty" and "foster diversity and equity in all academic and CTE programs."

This fall Blue Hills will welcome the Class of 2025 with over 250 students! As you know, there is a climbing demand for high-quality CTE programs in the Commonwealth. There is something for everyone at Blue Hills.

Our students and staff have been through very much. Surviving the pandemic included stay-at-home orders, no spring sports last year, limited extracurricular activities, remote learning, adjusting to fall 2 sports during the spring, family, health and sometimes financial impacts caused by the pandemic. We are so proud of them and our families for shining through this year despite all of the challenges. As our seniors secure jobs in their fields, go off to the military or are accepted to colleges and universities we wish them all the best. We are Blue Hills strong.

Very respectfully,
Jill M. Rossetti, Superintendent-Director

