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Dear Rock Hill School District Families,

Our community, our nation, and the world around us continue to navigate the realities of COVID-19 during a time of unbelievable and rapid change. As I reflect on what was our "normal" to what now has become a new way of operation that has forced us to move quickly, to adapt, and to make very difficult decisions for the good of all, I remain inspired by your resilience, your strength, and your compassion. We have all been affected by this pandemic, some, in ways that we could not have ever imagined. The pandemic has forced us to change how we live and learn. However, as I expected, we came together and showed our strength as a community. We remained positive and strong in a time of uncertainty.

As we concluded our school year with recent graduation ceremonies and now move into a time of rest and reflection with the beginning of summer break, I wish to remind us all of our district-wide motto and what it means to be *One Team One Mission One Rock Hill*. When we engage with one another and ensure that EACH child is valued in a safe, secure environment where they can learn, grow, connect and thrive, our community and world will be a better place.

Recent tragic events in our nation have brought many thoughts and emotions to everyone's awareness. I am saddened by acts of racism, violence, hatred, and discrimination in all its forms that have no place in our schools or society. The RHSD and its Board of Trustees remain committed to breaking down barriers and striving for equity. Respect for diversity and inclusion must remain at the forefront of all our decisions and all our actions. Now more than ever, we must support one another and focus on making our community and our world a better place.

RHSD will continue to focus on the needs and development of all our children. We will also continue to work as a staff to provide world class academic opportunities, while supporting the social emotional needs of our students and developing our own cultural competency as we move forward.

Together, we can be the positive change that embraces diversity and respects all individuals. It starts with each of us. Our children deserve our very best!

I wish each of you a wonderful summer, and as always, Rock Hill Schools is here to support all our families and our community. #OneTeamOneMissionOneRockHill

With Warm Regards,

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Bill Cook, Ed.D. Superintendent