

# RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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June 16, 2023

Dear Blue Waves Community,

As we approach the celebration of Juneteenth, it is essential that we take a moment to reflect on the significance of this important day in our country's history, not just for the African American community, but for our entire nation.

Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, commemorates the day when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to deliver the news that the Civil War had ended and that all enslaved people were now free. This announcement came over two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth marks not just the official day slavery ended in the United States, but also the beginning of a journey in this country to bring equal rights in all aspects of our culture to people of color in America. As we celebrate this day, it is important to understand the broader impact it has on American society and to reflect on the progress yet to be achieved.

While Juneteenth serves as a celebration of freedom, it is also a reminder of the work that needs to be done to ensure that our country is truly inclusive. We must continue to advocate for policies that support a more equitable society for all.

As we celebrate this important day, we should remember that our work is ongoing. Let us continue to work towards a future that is marked by compassion and free of oppression, and let us use Juneteenth as a reminder of what we can do to affect ongoing change for the betterment of all people and the world we live in.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aug E Tornatore'.

Dr. Augustine E. Tornatore  
Superintendent of Schools