Message from Dr. Ferreira

The 2019-2020 School Year was tumultuous to say the least. We started the year with great hopes and plans. Administrators and staff worked diligently through the summer months to finalize schedules and calendars, ensuring a positive and productive academic year. The fall brought us great events, both scholastic and extra-curricular. Students were excited to be back in school. Technical areas developed timelines for community and school based projects. Academic areas prepared for assessments and various projects connected to summer reading and work.

The winter was just as productive. The Cooperative Education Program placed students at record numbers. The sports programs were in full gear. College applications were being submitted and work permits were being requested left and right. Our Information Technology Department was hard at work, preparing bandwidth and devices for the upcoming MCAS and Advanced Placement testing seasons.

Then came March! From that point forward, normal was no longer a word we could use to describe our academic year. In the span of just two days, we had to move all our instruction from traditional, in person models, to virtual and remote systems. In less than six hours, we were able to supply students and staff with computers, WIFI connectivity, training, and professional development to try to get us through what we thought were a few weeks of transition.

Then came April and May! These months brought the stark realization that returning to normal was not an option for the 2020 school year. Plans quickly changed and events were canceled or rescheduled. Attention quickly changed to completing the academic year virtually and matriculating the uncharted waters of remote instruction. These were not easy times. Students struggled, staff struggled, and administration struggled. The unknown was everywhere. However, through grit and determination, we came through. Some emotionally scarred, others intellectually battered; but we prevailed.

Graduation looked different and was held in August, but we did it. Grading took longer to process, but we did it. Diplomas were handed out, tassels were moved from right to left and commencement speeches were given. Seniors were allowed to properly close their high school chapters. There were some tears and some smiles (even though they were difficult to see because of the face coverings). Overall, the message was clear…WE ARE DIMAN STRONG…and there is very little we cannot overcome.

I sincerely thank the stakeholders (students, parents, staff, faculty, administration, school committee) for the tireless hours of preparation and execution. So much could have gone wrong but we simply would not let it. As dark as these times were, we all took something away from the experience. Life can sometimes through you a major curveball and you may miss badly…but the important part is to get back in the batter’s box, take your stance, stare at the pitcher, and prepare for the next pitch.

Elvio A. Ferreira, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director
Technical Program Updates

The 2020 technical school year was productive and engaging. The Automotive Collision Program has been represented well in the Cooperative Education Program as well as SkillsUSA. The culture of the program has improved with student behavior and growth. This could not be accomplished without the dedication of the instructors and team effort. They each played important roles in every aspect. A Car Wash request form was implemented. The instructors need to be commended for their professionalism and dedication to their students and the program during the Covid-19 pandemic. Instructors were supportive of each other and provided assistance when necessary. The educational process was considerably impacted due to the pandemic, but our main goal was to provide any support needed to the students and their families.

In November 2019, ten students from the Automotive Technology Program took part in the written exam for the Massachusetts Automobile Dealers Association Competition. Unfortunately, no one advanced to the finals this year. At the Skills-USA District Competition held in February 2020, two students won medals. Corbin Merkt, a sophomore, won a Silver Medal, and Nicholas Davignon, a junior, won a Bronze Medal. Marcello Louro was named the Outstanding Vocational Student for the 2019-2020 school year. Sixty-eight percent of the Senior Class is employed through the Cooperative Education Program.

The Building and Property Maintenance Program once again partnered with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MASSDOT) Construction Program. This was a collaboration of numerous technical areas. The 30-hour apprenticeship program for Laborers’ Union took place January 6th and 27th. MASSDOT is collaborating with the program to have two students participate in a paid internship opportunities at local town departments. The department also had two students eligible for the Skills USA State Competition.
The Business Technology Program instructors and students need to be commended for their professionalism and dedication during the Covid-19 pandemic. Instructors were supportive of each other and provided assistance when necessary. The educational process was considerably impacted due to the pandemic, but the main goal was to provide any support needed to students and their families and the instructors continue to work towards achieving professional goals outlined in their educator evaluation plan. Business Technology instructors continue to earn professional development points to maintain Massachusetts licensure.

This year, the Culinary Arts Program had a total of four students place in Skills USA. The program had ten students place in the Cooperative Education Program. Several students have been accepted at the Culinary Institute of America and Johnson and Wales University. Eighty-three percent of seniors passed the ServSafe Protection Manager Certification.

The Carpentry and Cabinetmaking Program enrollment increased to 92 students. During the exploratory period, 275 freshmen students came through the program. The program drew 24 students with 11 first choices. Seventeen students were engaged in the schools Cooperative Education Program. Students completed several projects throughout the school and community. The department purchased and installed new SCM and CNC machines to assist with the curriculum delivery.

The Drafting Program continues to produce working drawings for Advanced Manufacturing, Metal Fabrication & Joining Technologies, Carpentry, Building & Property Maintenance and any other shop or school projects needing drawings. The program invested time in reverse engineering and creating working drawings for Sluice Gates for Fall River Sewer and Water Department. These gates were ultimately constructed by various programs in the school. The department also designed and drafted a steel platform for the Fall River Water and Sewer Department.

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Electricity Program instructors began to align the electrical curriculum with the new Electrical Vocational Technical Frameworks as well with the new 2017 National Electric Code. Although several sections of Strand 2 have been eliminated from the Electrical Frameworks, the electrical instructors consider this information extremely important for the success of the electrical students; therefore, the material will continue to be part of the department’s curriculum. Changes have been made to the sophomore curriculum. As of January 2020, the Electricity Program will be following the requirements of the New National Electrical Code Book. The instructors will be required to update existing 2017 Electrical textbooks with new textbooks based on the 2020 National Electrical Code Book. Forty new 2020 National Electrical Code Books will be purchased after first publication and will be utilized by students.
The **Electronics Program** had another great year to report on our students. Students successfully collected over 1,500 cans for the Key Club’s Annual Food Drive to benefit the less fortunate in our community. Two seniors, Landon Begin and April Lynn Cordeiro took part in the College Access Pathway Program earning college credit from BCC/UMass -Dartmouth and have completed their first year of college. Three Electronics students placed in the top ten and six in the top twenty. We had 13 students employed in the Cooperative Education program and two students who will be working in the trade upon graduation. Sixteen students will be continuing their trade education in college.

The **Graphic Communications Program** industry is becoming more diversified in what can be produced. The frameworks were reviewed this year and it appears the industry is becoming more versatile instead of concentrating in a specific area. The Program produced all the printed materials for the school. Students receive their Adobe Certification in Photoshop, InDesign, and Skill Connect Workforce Ready. The Program received the recertification of the national certification in PrintED in the areas of Digital File Preparation, Digital File Output, Offset Printing and Finishing, and Graphic Communications.

The **Metal Fabrication & Joining Technologies Program** had a good showing this year at the SkillsUSA District Competition winning two gold and two silver medals. All Instructors continue course study and professional development necessary for recertification. All instructors now have their **NFPA Hot Works certification**. Mr. Nogueira will be teaching the second **Hot Work Certification class** to be held here at Diman. The course will be open to all in the school and from the private sector. Instructors are currently working with his classes with anew online curriculum in fabrication, welding, metalworking, math and print reading in the related room. Students will also be able to access the material through GOOGLE classroom.

The **Plumbing Program** had another very productive year. Our students have assisted with maintaining the school. These tasks include: drain cleaning throughout the school year, repaired drain issues in Culinary Arts, replaced various faucets, relocated air lines in Carpentry, repairs to school restrooms, replaced water feeder on main boilers, and worked on the Administration remodel project.

The **Programing and Web Development Program** had a very productive year. Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A were offered to students. Unlike most other shops, Programming and Web Development does not have related courses on the academic schedule. This leaves a slot for an extra elective course in the junior and senior years. These two AP courses will be recommended electives for Programming and Web Development students. Offering these courses on the academic side also opens enrollment to students from other shops. There is a proposal to expand the computer science offerings on the academic side using the instructor who is preparing to teach these two courses next year. This will enable computer science exposure to even more Diman students.
During the month of September, the English department was able to connect summer student learning to in class unit and lesson plans. This was accomplished by bringing Padma Venkatraman, the author of the freshmen class book, in to address the freshmen class as a whole. As part of this speaker session, students were able to address standards set by the state of Massachusetts as associated with author intention, style, and decision making processes.

In addition to this presentation, the AP team worked to engage families in the educational process by offering several AP student and family events. In collaboration with Mass Insight and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Diman was able to offer an in school AP Kickoff event for students, followed by an AP Family Night. During these events, families became familiar with AP course expectations, asked questions of AP teachers, and discussed the outcomes associated with successfully completing an AP course.

As a manner of supporting continual program growth and development, Diman held Fall Advisory in October. During this advisory event, academic departments met with invited advisory members in an effort to review current curricula and possible changes needed for future success. These meetings were later utilized to support department vision statements and long-term plans.

Additionally, October presented Diman students with another opportunity to celebrate academics through the focused lens of STEAM Week. In addition to focusing upon STEAM based classroom activities, Diman academic department heads each presented a question of the week to the student body during morning announcements. This was intended to help students see the integration and importance of STEAM classes.

During the month of December, Diman hosted the annual Open House event. In addition to offering detailed and program specific information at department tables (located within the gymnasium), academic departments prepared in class demonstrations for community viewing and participation. During the Open House event, table information was also available for Diman academic support programs and Diman’s AP program.

College Access Pathway (CAP) students were also provided with specific planning and advising information during the month of
January. In an effort to best support this program, CAP students attended a morning long field trip at Bristol Community College. While on the college campus, students met with professors and deans from associated programs. During these meetings, course and program expectations were discussed. Students were also encouraged to obtain a student ID and were provided with an opportunity for advising.

Additionally, January brought about continued Early College grant meetings with Bristol Community College. In collaboration with Bristol Community College, Diman aims to offer students the opportunity to earn several college credits while still in high school. Research shows that this practice leads to increased college attendance and success.

Unfortunately, during AY2020, Diman did not get the opportunity to conduct regularly scheduled MCAS testing for sophomore students. This was due to the COVID-19 building closure.

In order to prepare teachers for the immediate switch to online learning, academic teachers worked with the librarian to film and post “how to” videos associated with online platforms like Google Classroom. The use of Google Classroom was mandated for all classes.
Division of Continuing Education

- **Journeyman Electrical Code (CMR 227 22:00 Initial Education)**- Journeyman classes enrolled 77 students working toward their professional license as electricians in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as for the state of Rhode Island. Four students completed the 600-hour prerequisite for testing. Every student who took the exam passed on the first attempt.

- **Plumbing Program**- Greater Fall River re-engaged its Plumbing Program during the 2020 school year. Forty-four students enrolled in various programs. Additionally, new curriculum was developed to ensure alignment with state boards, focusing heavily on Tier III and IV.

- The Division of Continuing Education is looking to expand offerings to include Heating/Ventilation and Medical Assisting.
Licensed Practical Nurse Program

Admissions: FTD 48, PTD 18
Graduates: FTD 32 (5 withdrawals, 11 failures)
PTD – due to graduate 2021 (year 1 - 4 withdrawals, 5 failures)

2020 graduates – NCLEX PN 1st time test taker pass rate 100% (2nd year in a row) despite completing the program in remote learning format from 3/17/2020-6/25/2020.

Faculty moved entire program to an online format over 3 days - meeting together to ensure program continued on schedule and met MA BORN requirements of 40 weeks and ongoing clinical experiences (moved to digital clinical platforms). All students in the program at the time of transition, successfully completed the program. A Zoom graduation and pinning ceremony was held on June 24, 2020.

LPN program maintains full approval by MA Board of Registration in Nursing, and ongoing COE Accreditation through 2024.

New CAE LearningSystem equipment installed 1/16/2020 (recordable cameras and computer based instruction compatible with CAE JUNO mannequin) in lab.

Two (2) Department Head positions were approved and filled by current faculty –
Academic Department Head – Lori Gehan
Clinical Department Head – Lisa Young
Post-Secondary Partnerships

Diman Regional continued its partnership with Bristol Community College (Bristol) and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMD) through the College Access Pathway (CAP). Twelve Diman Regional students enrolled in courses at Bristol Community College during the summer of 2019, fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. These students completed courses such as English 101, English 102, Calculus, Physics, Electrical Engineering, Biology, Software Application Design, Thermodynamics, Sociology, Philosophy, and Chemistry. These students are now able to continue their Associate Degree Program with Bristol for one additional year before transferring to UMD for two years of Baccalaureate Studies. Students who complete the program with a Bachelors in Engineering from UMD should see a cost savings of $22,824.
DIMAN BY THE NUMBERS

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Thank You

As the Greater Fall River Vocational School District aims to provide students with a world class education, we are extremely grateful for the continuous support we receive from our School Committee, sending communities and local representatives. Diman's history has been shaped by those who built our strong foundation and continue through the Diman Alumni Association and the Diman Bengal Education Foundation. As always, we strive to build upon these successes.

Whether you are part of our past, present or future, we cannot thank you enough for remaining dedicated to Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School and the Greater Fall River Vocational School District.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jeffrey Begin  Paul Jennings  |  Chairperson
Swansea  |  Westport
Donald DiBiasio  Joan Menard
Somerset  |  Fall River
Father Jay Mello  Rajiv Nehra
Fall River  |  Fall River