

4-30-20

Dear Parents and Guardians;

I know that this extended period of school closure has been difficult and stressful for many of you, and I hope that you are doing OK, and finding a balance that works for your family.

Although we now know that Remote Learning will continue through June 23rd, there are many questions that I cannot yet answer, as we wait for guidance from the State.

You have likely heard from your child's team this week, as teams work to update and expand Remote Learning Plans that meet each student's individual needs. It is our job to provide curriculum, enrichment ideas, and support. It is your job to do the best you can given your family's individual circumstances. I remain committed to the belief that your child's physical and mental health, and your family's stability are far more important than the completion of any particular assignment. That said, many students have been able to engage with learning, and are participating in a wide variety of lessons and activities! I'm so impressed with our kids, our staff, and their wonderful families!!

If you do not have the materials that you need to help your child with remote learning, please let the teacher or principal know. Starting next week we will be allowing staff to enter the school buildings using appropriate social distancing, and we will be able to mail or deliver some school supplies to families in need. Also, please let us know if you are struggling with food or other basic needs as we can help you find assistance.

At this point, I am hoping that schools will be able to open safely for Summer ESY Programs, but it is possible that there will need to be modifications to the way we normally operate. We are planning for a variety of options, and will keep you posted as we learn more from state education and public health officials.

At our High Schools, we are terribly sad that we will not be able to have Graduation ceremonies in the usual way in June, we are brainstorming a variety of ways to recognize our graduating seniors, including the possibility of ceremonies later in the summer.

I want to remind you of a few things that you have probably heard from your district:

- a. There is a letter from the Department of Education, and a Special Education Parent Resource Guide available on the DESE website. They are available in many languages:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped/family-letter/>

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/sped/family-resource-toolbox/>

- b. It is very important that you fill out the Census forms that you received in the mail. The Census information affects funding for schools. For more information go to <https://2020census.gov/>

Take care and stay well,

Fran Rosenberg