



Spring 2020

## A Message From the Executive Director

"Our agency is strong & our people are our greatest asset!"

Dear Friends;

Well it has been quite an interesting spring! I have been so proud of the ways in which our NEC community has worked together to make sure that our students and their families have been supported and able to continue learning during this challenging time!



Recovery High School's "parade of love and light" lifted many spirits. "Seeing our students renewed our commitment to helping them safely get through this..many happy tears..."

Since March, our work has looked very different! Consortium employees have delivered lunches, Chromebooks, and care packages to student homes. We have had staff meetings on Zoom, and taught classes on Google Classroom. Teachers have made videos, conducted on-line lessons, and run remote therapy sessions. We have had parades and recipe contests.

As always in the spring, we celebrate our graduating seniors. **Fifty-eight students have earned their High School diplomas....**quite a remarkable accomplishment for young people who have overcome many challenges. We are preparing for remote, video ceremonies which will still be special although in a different way from our usual ceremonies.

*Congratulations*

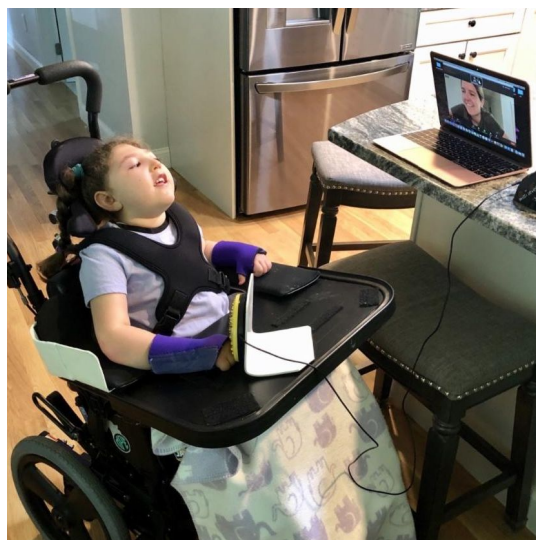
**CLASS OF 2020**

We are so proud of you!



During this time I have often paused to reflect on the fact that, **thanks to our donors and friends, we are in much better shape** to weather this crisis than we would have been

five years ago. Our finances and infrastructure are stable. We have had enough technology in house to lend Chromebooks and communication devices to students in need. Staff are successfully utilizing the technology to implement outstanding remote curriculum. Our employees are well trained in trauma and learning, and able to use these skills to support children and families who are struggling with the stress of this pandemic.



KOG student, Mary meets for her video speech therapy session with her speech teacher Molly Riffle.

**So what's next?** The future remains uncertain for us, as it does for everyone. We are thinking about and planning for a year that includes masks at school and social distancing. We are considering the possibility that many of the things we love will look different; in a year without large gatherings, how will we incorporate music, art, and physical activity? If there are ongoing waves of illness and quarantine, how will we prepare to switch back to full or partial remote learning when needed? How will students be transported safely to and from school? How will the financial impact on cities and towns affect referrals?

We do know that NEC families, and families in our member districts, will be experiencing an extreme level of stress in the coming months due to financial strain, health issues, and possible depression and anxiety triggered by months of social distancing and loss of the usual structures and supports. **Anticipating a severely reduced budget, we are actively seeking grants and philanthropic dollars** not only to carry on day to day student activities across our eight programs, but also to underwrite the cost of providing our member districts with training, consultation, and clinical support to address the effects of the pandemic on students. NEC is recognized as a leader throughout our region in providing this type of professional development and training. We know that school districts will need this support but will be limited by very tight local budgets. Philanthropic dollars will allow NEC to provide districts with the expertise necessary to help teachers, students and families successfully navigate this unprecedented time.

We also know that NEC will be OK. Our agency is strong and our people are our greatest asset! **Even if this next year looks different, we are confident that we will be able to remain true to our mission and help our communities support our most vulnerable kids!**

With ongoing appreciation for your love and support,

Francine H. Rosenberg, M.Ed.  
Executive Director

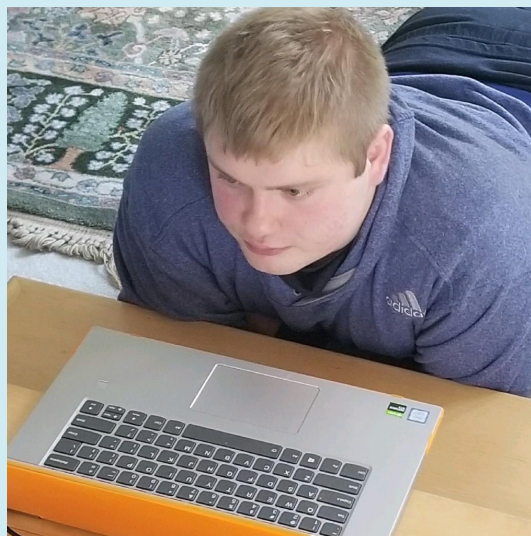
# Program Updates



## Teacher Appreciation

During Teacher Appreciation Week, many students shared pictures and videos showing their support and appreciation for their teachers.

[Click Here](#) for a video made by SOAR student Sam thanking all of his teachers.



## Remote Learning

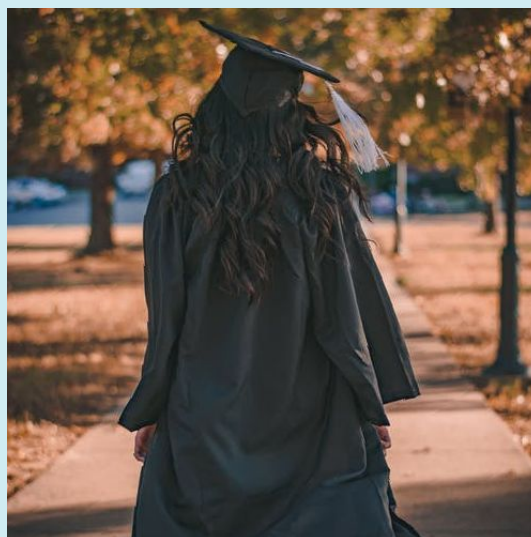
Since March, all NEC students have continued their learning remotely; engaging in on-line class meetings, lessons & therapy sessions.

[Click Here](#) for a video of KOG student, Adriana, enjoying her online class time!



## Home Visits

Consortium employees delivered lunches and care packages to student homes; as well as Chromebooks and communication devices for all students in need.



## Class of 2020

This year fifty-eight students have earned their High School diplomas. We are preparing for remote, video ceremonies which will still be special although in a different way from our usual ceremonies.

# Support Our Work!

Through the support of private funding this year, our programs were provided with additional classroom technology, arts & recreational enrichments, professional development, student support, and so much more!



### Music Enrichment

In partnership with [Young Audiences of MA](#), the Kevin O'Grady School hosted a unique music residency presented by teaching artists of the Thread Ensemble. While this program was cut short when we switched to remote learning, the sessions we did have were remarkable!



### NSAU Ski Trip

In January, Upper School students enjoyed cross-country skiing at Pinkham Notch with Mr. Michael Burns, Physical Education teacher and leader of the Outdoor Adventures Program. Generous support from [Cell Signaling Technology](#) made this program possible.



### Professional Development

Thank you to the van Otterloo Family Foundation for their recent generous grant award supporting professional development for educators, staff and clinicians in the coming year.



### Vocational Training

Generous support from [New England Biolabs](#) will fund an upgrade to the work training stations in the Kevin O'Grady Vocational Training Room. Above a student works on sorting skills in the existing training room.

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As we move into our next academic year, your investment in the work we do and most importantly, the students we serve will be

more vital than ever.

Thank you for standing with us.  
"Every student. Every day. Whatever it takes."

Support NEC!

## Stay Connected & Share!

You now have a few ways to follow us on Facebook:

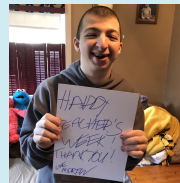
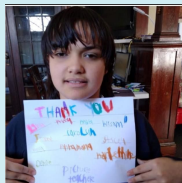
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