



May 26, 2020

Good afternoon Methuen families,

I hope this message finds you and your entire family healthy and well. It is hard to believe we are in week 10 of remote learning. I don't think anyone could have predicted on March 1st that the school year would end this way. While it has been quite remarkable for everyone in so many different ways, I have been able to witness the strength of our community through this pandemic. The teachers, administrators, parents, students, and all of our staff have supported the students and families and each other these past three months. During this difficult time, I truly feel blessed to be leading this school system.

The principals have been and will continue sending out messages with important school based information. They will have a schedule out soon for families who want to pick up student belongings before the summer. Mr. Barden will continue to inform families of the graduation plans and the grammar school principals of the grade 8 final assembly plans and other grade 8 details. Please see below for some district-wide information.

- The last day of school is **June 19th** - the 185th day per DESE regulations.
- Our team will be meeting this week to discuss rolling out our programming decisions for Extended School Year (ESY).
- Our team will be meeting this week regarding all other summer programming; Ranger Camp, Unified Talents, MHS summer school, MHS 21st Century programs. We will be working with the city regarding all youth summer programs.
- Reopening of school in the fall - all public schools are waiting for detailed guidance from the DESE in the coming weeks about reopening schools. We know it will not be a typical reopening, but are unsure at this time what exactly we will be planning. We will be sending a survey out to parents the first week of June that will include getting feedback regarding your experiences with remote learning and some thoughts about reopening and how parents and students are feeling. We anticipate engaging in reopening planning through June and July.
- The district and school committee are working to create a level funded budget for FY 21 in light of the uncertain state and city budget due to the loss of revenues during the pandemic. The state has not created an FY 21 budget at this time. As half of our school funding comes from the state through Chapter 70 Aid, it is difficult to determine what our actual budget will be.
- With the uncertainty of both the FY 21 budget (both the state and city level) and the reopening plan, students will not be assigned to homerooms at the grammar schools prior to August and all high school schedules will be finalized in August as well.

Please stay safe and healthy. The principals and I will continue to update you as new information is released.

Sincerely,

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Methuen Public Schools