

May 5, 2020

Good afternoon Methuen families:

I hope this message finds you and your family well. I have a few important announcements to share with everyone.

- 1) **For our grades PK-2 students, we are sending home an optional paper activity packet** and some school supplies. There are sheet protectors in the packets that can be used as a home whiteboard if you put a white paper in the sheet protector. These are ***optional*** activities your child can complete during the remote learning time or the summer. It is your choice.

These packets will be delivered to homes (through no contact delivery) by dedicated Methuen Public school staff members, beginning Wednesday May 6th. Upon arriving at your address, a staff member will call the contact number listed in Infinite Campus, to alert you of the delivery and ensure the materials are received.

- 2) **Tomorrow, May 6th, teachers may not be available to return emails, be present for a Google Hangout/Meet, or for phone.** They will be participating in professional development. Students can continue to complete work assigned for tomorrow. If they have questions, they can contact their teacher on Thursday.
- 3) **Please see the [Methuen Parent Guide to Remote Learning](#) from now until June 19th.** This plan is based off of the Massachusetts guidance from April 24th. It was developed by our leadership team and our educators.
- 4) **Methuen does not plan to hold students back as a result of the school closure.** The State is NOT recommending retention of students due to this closure. Methuen Public Schools agrees with this guidance. Parents and guardians may be feeling that their child is falling behind. However, this is not the case at all. All students in each grade and each course will be in the same academic position when the buildings reopen. Our task now as educators is to determine the best course of action to reach all students and work on our curriculum maps to assess and focus on the standards every student will need to be successful next year and beyond. This is and will continue to be our focus as we begin our reopening plans for September.
- 5) **The principals are planning a day most likely at the end of May/early June for teachers to clean out student belongings for parent pick-up.** We will set the date once

we hear from Governor Baker about closures after May18 and adhere to all safety guidelines set by the Department of Public Health.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your teachers, guidance staff, principals, and central office staff during this time if you have any questions. Please visit the [website](#) with dedicated resources for families during this remote learning time. The Tips to Stay Connected Digitally at the very bottom of the page has many resources and an email to contact staff if you need tech support, have technology based questions, or questions about student chromebooks.

Please stay healthy and safe. The staff misses all of the students deeply, and we can't wait to see everyone.

Sincerely,

Brandi L. Kwong
Superintendent
Methuen Public Schools