

Dear Merrimack Families~

As promised, I am writing a second time this afternoon with specific information regarding what parents and students can expect tomorrow as the Merrimack School District begins its remote learning initiative.

Throughout the day today, I visited each of our schools and observed, firsthand, the work of our educators as they implemented plans developed over the last several days in collaboration with, and under the direction of, school leaders. The focus of efforts over the last few days, including today, has been the creation and collaboration of creative learning opportunities for our students. Nothing that we can do or can deliver to our students over the coming days and weeks will replace the quality of experiences that students enjoy and are exposed to every day in the classroom, but what our educators will provide to students are genuine and meaningful learning opportunities.

In the coming days, you can expect continued communication from each of our schools concerning anticipated next steps in the remote learning process and related information that is germane to your individual school community. While I will continue to update our families, you can begin to expect more site-based communication as well in the days ahead.

Below, please find specific direction related other areas in which we are working to deliver services to our families during this time of significant challenge:

- For concerns or questions that parents or students may have related to the delivery of special education services, you are invited to direct those questions and concerns both to your home school and our Student Services office at 424-6211. That department will also provide updates to families concerning their work on behalf of special education students.
- For families who need an additional computing device, the district is offering Chromebooks for student use at home. For this purpose, please call 603-424-6203 between the hours of 8am and 3pm. You may also complete the request form posted on school and district websites. The school district technology department will collect the information from your request and will notify you when a device is ready to be picked up.
- For families that do not have internet access, there are resources available. Comcast has made their Xfinity hotspots open to all customers. There are many such hotspots throughout Merrimack, especially along the DW Highway corridor that you may wish to explore if the need arises. Tomorrow, I will provide additional information we have received from COMCAST that may be of use to our families.

Later this evening we will share an important update concerning the district's efforts to provide lunch to district students over the coming days and weeks.

Despite so much that has changed for all of us over the last few days, we want to assure our students that wherever we are, we remain as committed to their education as we have ever been.

We are still here for our students and our families, and will continue to work hard to support you all in the coming days.

Thank you.

Mark McLaughlin

Superintendent