

Good Evening Merrimack Families~

I hope that you were able to find some rest this past weekend and enjoyment in however you were able to spend it. For those who observe the Easter holiday, I hope you were able to enjoy it despite the health crisis preventing traditional observances. For those families celebrating Passover, your observance continues and we wish you the ability to maintain them despite the on-going health crisis.

As we begin another week in our remote learning environment we will continue to share on-going decisions about grading and assessment, work volume and other issues that the continuation of this emergency have made necessary. In addition, as I have indicated previously, we must continue to discuss the question of the extension of remote learning given the current environment. There will be considerably more discussion to be had on that subject this week.

Each day in this new environment we mark individual and group successes in remote learning and recognize necessary improvements and refinements that only time and experience can reveal. We recognize that issues of school work/home life balance and learning expectations must continue to be clarified. As mentioned above, we will soon be sharing additional information about grading and assessment. However, I wish to reassert the chief responsibility that we have as a school district in these times, which is to maintain, as best as we can, the academic progress of our students in spite of the health emergency. Our goal is to provide our students and their families with the means of developing and maintaining a routine in the midst of very un-routine circumstances and the academic preparation that will provide the best foundation we can build for re-entry to school. Whenever that occurs, our goal now is to do the best we can, in partnership with you, to support our students for whatever comes next in their academic journey.

I continue to marvel at the ability of our students, their families and teachers to rise to this challenge, despite its many difficulties. Thank you for the daily reminders of the possibility of excellence even in hard times.

Stay well.

Mark McLaughlin  
Superintendent