

Dear Merrimack Families and District Staff~

This week marks the beginning of our carefully crafted plan to allow staff to reenter our school buildings to retrieve personal belongings left in their classrooms back in March, when we all thought we might still return to normal operations before the end of the school year. This plan has been developed consistent with the governor's latest guidance, with input from healthcare professionals, and overseen by appropriate administrative staff. We will continue limited access in this way for the next several weeks, on designated days, to ensure that proper social distancing and other safety precautions are achieved and maintained. In the near future, the school district will provide students and their families with information concerning the retrieval of student belongings as well, designed, of course, to address all related safety and health precautions. The process of closing out the school year, complicated at best, is exponentially more so now in the context of the on-going health emergency. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we proceed cautiously to conduct year end business during this most unusual time.

On another note, our school lunch program continues to hum along, with just over 300 lunches served today, both at the high school location and with remote bus delivery. We look forward to the return of our own school district food service staff who have worked so hard since the early days of this crisis to provide mid-day meals to our families. They have been among the many stellar district employees whose work during this emergency has been so valued by so many. Until their most welcome return next week, we are grateful to our lunch catering partners for their excellent service and willingness to scale up so quickly and so efficiently to help us continue our mission to serve the community in this way. I would like to especially recognize our Food Services Director, Dave Dziki, who has been on site everyday throughout this crisis to ensure that daily lunch is prepared and packaged safely and served attentively to all those who seek it. Dave Dziki is another of the many folks in our school district whose efforts on behalf of our school community help to make it such a place. Thank you Dave.

Stay well.

Mark McLaughlin
Superintendent