

Dear Merrimack Families and District Staff~

With just over one week to go before the last day of school, plans are underway on several fronts concerning activities related to this important milestone. For example, end of year celebration will be held at all our schools over the coming days and we encourage families to pay close attention to announcements coming from your child's school concerning these special events. Further, in response to current requirements around social distancing, we are working hard to ensure safe and appropriate access to our school buildings for the retrieval of staff and student belongings. Additional information about the pick-up process will be shared shortly. As with end of year celebrations, please look for announcements coming from your child's school about this process and related schedules.

As I indicated in an earlier message, our high school graduation planning took a big leap forward this week with decisions about the date of graduation, the location of graduation, and the form it will take. But this is just the beginning. Each day brings additional planning and we will update our Graduation 2020 webpage regularly with new information as it becomes available. I wish to reinforce two points made in a previous message concerning high school graduation; we will adhere to every safety protocol that we are required to observe under current executive orders and every other safety protocol we deem necessary in order to address the safety and security of our guests AND we will do all we can to observe and maintain as many traditions as we can given the restrictions we are required to follow. Threading this needle is tricky business, but we are working hard to provide as safe and memorable a graduation as the current conditions will allow. Stay tuned for further updates and we thank you, in advance, for your patience as we negotiate through this incredibly complicated process. We share the same goal-providing a wonderful and memorable experience for our seniors and we will achieve it!

In the midst of end of year planning and mindful of all the considerations that must be taken relative to beginning of year planning for the school district and all of you, it is important to remember that we have been

tested quite a bit this year and are doing just fine. Thanks to the partnership between our families and our schools and our students and our teachers, and given everyone's hard work, that will continue to be the case in the days, weeks and months to come. For now, enjoy these beautiful days and appreciate how much you have all accomplished with, for and on behalf of your children, our students, who really are the future of this community.

Stay well.

Mark McLaughlin
Superintendent