

Dear Merrimack Families and District Staff~

We are in the final countdown to this school year. One week from today marks the last day of school for students. Even though this has been a remarkable and remarkably different school year than any of us imagined when we began in September, we have maintained our school year nevertheless. It hasn't been perfect, but it has been better by any standard than we could have hoped when the virus caused us to shut down school operations in March. School has been real. Expectations have been real. Teaching and learning have been real. The partnership between teachers and parents has made this so. And to the extent that some students need additional services or support to ensure they regain lost momentum, we have a huge variety of summer programs that will provide much of that support. And we will ensure that in the coming school year, in whatever form that takes, students will continue to be supported as necessary to account for the variety of needs they might have as a result of the virus' impact on school operations. As noted in earlier messages, these details will be forthcoming in the days and weeks ahead.

But as we wind down this extraordinary school year, I'd like to take a moment to share some of the exciting and creative ways that our schools are acknowledging its final days. Always, at this time of year, our schools plan and engage in a variety of year end celebrations. That tradition is as old as school itself. But this year, of course, as with so many things, those traditions have had to yield to new ways of observing them to ensure the safety of our students and staff. But here's the important part-no one gave up on the idea of marking the end of this school year with fun events. Our traditions are holding, even if they have to look a little different for the time being. We are working hard to provide our students with opportunities to reconnect one last time, if even virtually, with their classmates, teachers, and school community. Below please find two links for you to enjoy what two of our schools have done already to mark the end of the year. More to come I'm sure.

In the meantime, I wish you all a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend. To all our veterans, living and deceased, we offer our everlasting thanks for your service.



Stay well.

Mark Mclaughlin  
Superintendent

<https://sites.google.com/sau26.org/tfsfunweek/home>

[https://merrimack.learning.powerschool.com/carole.lewis/mrs.lewiscomputerlab/cms\\_page/view](https://merrimack.learning.powerschool.com/carole.lewis/mrs.lewiscomputerlab/cms_page/view)