

Dear Merrimack Families and District Staff~

Today was another day of celebration and shows of support for one another each in our school communities as Reeds Ferry School, Mastricola Elementary School and Mastricola Upper Elementary School cheered on their students one final time with parades, signs, honking horns, tears, cheers and lots of community warmth. Tomorrow, the last day of school, Thorntons Ferry and Merrimack Middle School will celebrate their students in similar ways. It isn't typical, it isn't familiar, but it is all just as warm and spirited as ever. There are many ways that safety considerations due to the virus have forced us all to modify our traditions and many of the things that we hold close, a necessary consequence of our district's number one priority—the health and safety of students and staff. But our community continues to find ways to work around these precautions, develop new traditions, and continue to enjoy important moments in the life our school district. None of us wished for this-but all of us are committed to doing our best with what lies before us. The celebrations and shows of support that I have witnessed over the last few days from students, their families, and our staff confirms just how many of us are committed to making the best out of some very tough times.

Stay well.

Mark McLaughlin
Superintendent