

Dear Merrimack Families~

Over the last several weeks, since District administration released its preliminary School Reopening Plan for the Board's review on July 13<sup>th</sup>, teachers and administrators have been hard at work continuing to develop and refine its plans. At last night's Virtual Town Hall District Administration provided additional information to parents, students and staff in an effort to provide further clarity and answer additional questions concerning specific known details related to school reopening.

As you know, several weeks ago the District issued a survey requesting information from parents about their intentions for schooling their children in the fall—there are two choices:

1. Hybrid model (2 days on location learning, 2 days remote learning, 1 day FLEX day)
2. Fully remote

We recognized then, as we do now, that this is a hugely impactful question and one that is, for many, very difficult to answer. But we have reached a point in our preparations now where we cannot move forward in our plans without detailed information concerning the intentions of our parents/students. Schedules, teacher assignments and other curriculum/instruction refinements and initiatives cannot move forward until we have much more certain numbers with regard to students who will attend school in the hybrid model and those who will attend fully remote. Our last survey yielded just under a 50% return rate. We recognize that this was likely the result of families waiting for additional information concerning safety precautions and instructional plans, and the delayed response, while challenging for the District, is understandable. However, we have reached the point now where final plans and details relative to school reopening require this vital information from families.

As a consequence, we are reissuing the Parent School Reopening Survey, attached to this message. Additionally, a link to the survey can be found on our website and on our District Facebook page. It will be emailed to all families as well via School Messenger and will be accompanied by a voice message reminder. Here are the details:

- The survey will be open until 5 PM Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at which point it will close. The District will not reissue the School Reopening Survey after August 4<sup>th</sup>
- **If we have not received a returned survey from you on behalf of your child or children concerning your choice of option for school reopening, the District will automatically assume that you have selected the Hybrid option and will schedule your child/children accordingly**
- If you have previously completed and returned this survey, you **DO NOT** need to complete and return it again **UNLESS** you wish to select a different option.
- The District will seek to accommodate changes to your original selections throughout the course of the initial phase of this plan, through October 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 as events warrant