

Dear Merrimack Families~

For the first time in six months, our District welcomed students back into our schools today. Likewise today, we welcomed back our remote learning students in virtual classrooms in every school and at every grade across our District. No matter where they are, or how they are learning, our students are back and we couldn't be happier to see them. A team of dedicated staff has been working, and will continue to work, as hard as they can in whatever role they play in our operations, to ensure the delivery of the best education we can provide.

This does not mean that we will be without problems and challenges, and it does not mean that our students, or their families, will be without frustrations and disappointments. As we have reminded our community on so many occasions throughout this health emergency, we are here to work with you to address and sort out whatever problems you may encounter with regard to your students' education in the days, weeks and months to come. In such cases, we urge you to work with your students' teachers, case managers and building administrators. Seek them out. Let them know you need help. They have been problem solving throughout the pandemic and will continue to do so now that we have reopened our schools and remote classrooms for instruction. The issues we have been facing, and will continue to face, are community issues and will best be resolved working together as a community.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that the District has appointed Mr. Bill Morris, formerly the Assistant Principal at Masticola Upper Elementary School, to coordinate our newly developed Remote Education Academy for Learning (REAL). His position has been filled by Dr. Nicci Rheault, who will now serve as the interim assistant principal at the upper elementary school. The position of REAL coordinator was created to oversee the operations of our remote education program and is designed to provide support to our remote learners, their families, and our remote teachers. The challenges faced by our remote learners and educators are unique, and we believe require dedicated oversight. In the coming weeks we will provide additional information about this role. For now, however, we wish to reassure our remote students, families and teachers that we will do all we can to create the conditions for their success just as we have and will for all our students learning in the Hybrid model. All students are our students and we will always work with them, and their families, to ensure their success.

Welcome back all!

Mark McLaughlin
Superintendent