

Dear Merrimack K-4 Families~

As you know, the school board has recently approved a plan to allow students to return to school for in person learning in grades K-4 beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>. You recall a survey that asked families to select their preferred option, choosing between Monday-Thursday in person learning, with an early release day on Friday, or Monday-Thursday remote learning, with an early release on Friday.

Your answers to that survey have been essential to our planning, allowing us, most importantly, to understand and address safety needs and protocols in light of the number of students we anticipate returning to in person learning. As was the case at the beginning of this school year, some families again are electing to switch their previously selected options after having responded to the survey. As you can imagine, these shifts make planning, especially for safety concerns, extremely challenging.

As a result, I am writing to inform you that our schools will allow final changes to previously selected options up to **5 pm on Tuesday, February 16**. After that, we cannot honor any further change requests until March 15<sup>th</sup>, when, as before, we will consider them through the process already established for such change requests. If you are unfamiliar with that process, please consult your school's administration for information. **Please note that if you are keeping your choice in the survey, you do not need to contact the school.**

We appreciate your assistance in working with our schools to ensure we have updated information concerning in person and remote learning classroom student numbers in order to properly and comprehensively prepare for the upcoming shift.

Thank you and stay well.

Mark McLaughlin  
Superintendent