

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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May 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

As we begin our second month of being out of school and continuing our distance learning platform I wanted to provide you with some updates. The staff, student, and family surveys have been collected as of today and will be closely analyzed by the Leadership Team on Tuesday. Next week the building principals will provide you with information concerning any changes in the instructional framework, assessments, and grading that may result from gathering the stakeholder feedback. At that time we will also provide you with updates on end of year activities including graduation. Thank you to those of you who took the time to provide us your thoughts on the distance learning experience thus far. We are committed to improving the model over the next few weeks.

This week has been especially stressful for our staff as there have been decisions made that will impact our operating budget significantly next year. Rest assured I am working with the Leadership Team to explore ways to minimally impact the incredible staff and program offerings we have built collectively over the past several years. With next week being Staff Appreciation Week, it is the opportune time to thank all of our staff members including teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians and others who have made a positive impact on your child. I am confident in these difficult times a kind note of gratitude would be enormously appreciated.

I do have two fantastic items of new to share with you all. I am beyond excited to share that the pre-registration data at Stonington High School is showing for the first time ever, all music classes at the high school including guitar, band, chorus, music appreciation, etc. are filled. This is clear evidence our middle school music program is inspiring students to study music more than ever before! Thank you to our amazing middle school team!

And finally, I am proud to announce the appointment of Kathryn Irvine as the new principal of West Vine Street School. Kathy has spent her entire 35 years in education here in Stonington Public Schools and is a well-respected and beloved leader. She knows the school and community well and has the perfect skill set to take the successes realized at West Vine Street School to the next level. Please join me in congratulating Kathy on her new role.

Enjoy the upcoming weekend as it is expected to be a warm and sunny one!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Van W. Riley".

Dr. Van Riley
Superintendent