

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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May 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches I know you are concerned about many issues and I hope to address several of them in this week's letter. First, I wanted to let you know any formal classroom instruction will end on Wednesday, June 17th and grades will close at that time. Thursday, June 18th and Friday, June 19th will focus on end of year grade level building activities including yearbook distribution and other special events. Each principal will be sending out information about these events to you shortly.

Schools will also share their unique plans and schedules for the pick-up of locker/desk/cubby contents and for the drop off of musical instruments. Please follow every direction carefully to protect your families and others during this process. Closer to the end of the school year families of students in **grades 6-8 only** will receive a communication directly from the Technology Department about turning in/trading devices as appropriate and this process will be scheduled after the school year ends. All other students may keep their school issued devices over the summer.

Many questions linger about what the next school year has in store for all of us. I recognize each of your families has different challenges and needs related to the reentry plan. As the district receives guidance from the state and public health leaders we will update you on any decision about plans for next year. A district team is being assembled to review the survey results from families, staff and students to inform any improvement to our Distance Learning Plan for next year as it is important we prepare for the possibility of needing to implement it in part or whole. Until we have a better idea of what the reentry plan looks like for the fall, be advised teacher assignments at the elementary level and schedules at the secondary level may be delayed until a reentry plan is firmed up.

The survey data you completed as of May 1st provided valuable information about distance learning in Stonington and I want to share some survey highlights with you. Of all families polled in the district approximately 42% responded. When asked, "**How is your child's digital learning going?**" on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being poor and 5 being excellent) the vast majority of families responding (91%) reported a score of 3 or higher indicating the current distance learning plan is working for their child. Out of that 91% approximately 66% of families reported with scores of 4 or 5. When asked, "**Do you know who to contact with questions about distance learning?**" over 90% of families report they know who to contact. And an extremely encouraging piece of information, approximately 90% of **families reported their child's workload is manageable**. We will continue to build on these successes and make adjustments as we look forward to the future implementation of the model, but are very proud of the work the teachers, administrators and the curriculum team have done to make this transition as smooth as possible. I thank you for partnering with us as "educators at home" to make the most of the remote teaching and learning experience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Van Riley
Superintendent