



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future

EMILY J. PARKS
Superintendent of Schools

APRIL 21 UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

April 21, 2020

Dear Westwood Families:

Governor Baker announced this afternoon that schools in Massachusetts will remain closed and will continue with a remote learning model for the rest of the school year. Superintendents were informed that we will receive further guidance from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) soon. The Westwood Public Schools will also continue to assess how our remote learning plan and special education supports are working and think about what modifications may be needed now that the time frame for the closure has been extended.

While I know we all hoped that it would be possible to return to in-person instruction sometime this spring, today's announcement at least provides the clarity necessary for us to start making decisions and alternate plans for important events like graduation, prom, moving-up ceremonies, and other things that are meaningful for students and the community. We will create a plan to conclude the school year on June 19th given how abruptly students and teachers had to exit school buildings in March. We will also evaluate whether or not programs like summer enrichment will be possible. More on those issues will be coming soon.

Finally, the Town's Youth & Family Services (Y&FS) Department invites you to attend a free webinar for Westwood parents, **"Parenting in Uncertain Times: Issues and Strategies for Parents of School-Aged Children,"** to be held on Tuesday, April 28 from 12:00PM-1:00PM. The goal of this program is to support parents/guardians of school-aged children in Westwood as they navigate parenting issues during the COVID-19 public health crisis. During the hour, Y&FS clinicians will respond to the most common questions and issues that parents have raised and will also hold an interactive Q&A period. To participate, please register [here](#).

We know that this situation is really challenging, especially for our high school seniors. We appreciate how diligently our students are attending virtual class meetings and teacher office hours, completing assignments, staying engaged in school, and staying positive. Their resilience is impressive. As always, please reach out to your building principal if we can support your family in any way.

Sincerely,

Emily J. Parks

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Superintendent