



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future

EMILY J. PARKS
Superintendent of Schools

FEEDBACK ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH REMOTE LEARNING

June 16, 2020

Dear Westwood Public Schools Families:

We have reached the last week of what will, undoubtedly, go down in history as a very unusual year in public education! As we conclude this year, we are already beginning to look ahead to the next school year.

We all hope that we will be able to return to school in September. However, there are indications that the reopening of school in the fall will likely not be "business as usual." We anticipate that by the end of this week the state will be releasing a document to districts with parameters for safely reopening schools in the fall. This document will guide school districts as we prepare for the various scenarios that we might be faced with depending on how the public health indicators trend. These parameters could range from in-person instruction with additional safety precautions, to a combination of in-person and remote learning, to a fully remote model. We imagine that we will need to have schedules and a staffing plan in place so that we could transition from one model to another on an as needed basis should public health indicators change during the school year.

Once we have the necessary information from the state, we will first take the time to digest it, and then we will get to work over the summer planning for the fall. We have identified working groups in four areas -- Teaching and Learning, Health and Wellness, Operations, and Human Resources -- that will be working throughout July to create our reopening plan. It is clear that there will be many issues to examine, logistics to work out, and problems to be solved. We hope that by the end of July, we will be able to communicate a plan to families so that there is adequate time to prepare for whatever lies ahead.

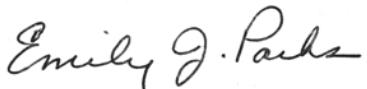
As a first step, we want to gather some feedback about families' experience with remote learning this spring. Your feedback will inform some of our thinking for the fall. We would appreciate your responding to this [parent survey](#) by **Friday, June 19th**.

We are also interested in hearing from students about their experience this spring. For students in grades 3-5, the student survey will be sent directly to parents. We ask that you please have your child fill it out, independently, if possible. Your child may need help reading or understanding a question, which is fine, but we are really interested in the student's perspective and authentic answers. Students in grades 6-12 will receive the survey link directly from their principal. Principals will copy parents on the email to students in case you would like to talk with your student about their responses.

Finally, throughout the summer, we anticipate that we will need to send additional surveys to parents to get your feedback on the progress of our plans and to gauge parents' comfort level in returning students to school in-person, riding busses, etc.

This has been a challenging spring for all of us, for sure. However, I have been so appreciative of and impressed by the way WPS students and their families have risen to the occasion, stayed positive, and worked as a community to support each other's efforts. I hope very much that you are able to enjoy some of the pleasures of summer. My best wishes to all of you!

Sincerely,



Emily J. Parks
Superintendent