

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 25, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Over the last two days I have had the privilege of assisting our Tech team in the distribution of Chromebooks to our elementary students and iPads to our PreK students at Stonington High School. It was refreshing to experience the gratitude of families and excitement of our students as we begin our adventure into online learning together next week.

As a reminder, if your child is in grades K-5 and you have not yet picked up their Chromebook at **Stonington High School**, please make arrangements to do so on Thursday, March 26th between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Many families have indicated they have devices at home that their children can use to access content in the online model. Be advised iPads may not support all of the platforms and programs included in our distance learning model and it may be advantageous to pick up a Chromebook for your child. The district has reserved a Chromebook for every student in grades K-5. High school students in need of a device may also pick up a Chromebook during this window of time at the high school. If you have any issues with the hardware after you pick up the device contact the IT Department secretary, Heather Lebovitz at 860-572-0506 ext. 2154 for assistance.

Once you have picked up your child's device you may want to take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the platform they will be using to access the curriculum and virtually meet with their teachers. Tutorials for our online learning platforms specifically, Seesaw for Grades K-2 and Google Classroom for Grades 3-12 are on our [district website](#) under the Distance Learning page. Additional resources and tutorials for families will be added on this page at the end of this week and continually thereafter as we progress through the next few weeks of distance learning.

As we ready ourselves for the opening day of our new Distance Learning platform, there are important considerations parents and families need to pay close attention to as partners in the educational process at home. Please find a quiet area of your home, with as little distraction as possible, to enhance the learning environment and add privacy protections when children are video-conferencing. Other family members should not be listening to or viewing video-conferencing when your child is "in class". We realize younger students may need some supervision initially, but that should be kept as minimal as feasible. Recording *in any manner*, of the video-conferencing between students and the teacher should not occur under any circumstances. All district policies and procedures concerning the appropriate use of technology and appropriate classroom behavior remain in effect during distance learning.

Finally, I notified the Class of 2020 and their families yesterday that our plan is to hold a graduation ceremony on Friday, June 19, 2020 to celebrate our senior class students and their accomplishments and we still have that date reserved. However, this pandemic may require us to postpone the date. Seniors' diplomas will be granted on June 19th even if we need to postpone the ceremony. If we are not able to share in the celebration on June 19th, we will hold a ceremony for the graduates and their families as soon as possible in the future. It is premature to set a future graduation date as the health crisis continues to change daily and we are not certain the June 19th date must change. I can say with certainty a graduation ceremony will occur and it will take place at Stonington High School. Depending on the date and other circumstances, we will do everything possible to find creative ways for guests who are not able to attend in person to do so virtually.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Van W. Riley".

Dr. Van Riley
Superintendent