

# STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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April 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

I want to thank you for making our first week of distance learning a success as we partnered with you to welcome back our students into their new virtual classrooms. Each day brings new learning for all of us and we are very proud of the collaboration and innovation demonstrated by the teachers and administrators in each building. Along with the enthusiasm the students bring.

As previously shared with you, the distance learning model is not intended to be a replication of the traditional school day and both instruction and assessment practices will look and feel differently to students and families. One of the best ways to support your child is to provide a quiet place for them to work independently online and offline. Supplying earbuds or headphones will assist your child and your child's teacher in maintaining student privacy and also will provide a quiet work environment for others in your home. Encourage your child to complete their work independently as they would in the traditional classroom setting. This helps the teacher provide specific feedback to your child and informs the teacher on how instruction should be adjusted.

Remember the school day officially runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and administrators and teachers are encouraged to separate from the online environment and devices to care for their families and themselves. As communication with you is a critical component of our educational programming, staff will do their best to return your calls and emails within 24 hours of receipt. An immediate response is not always practical as individual families have different demands and circumstances. I encourage you to check the [district webpage](#) frequently as important updates, tutorials for accessing the learning platforms, and resources for distance learning are all posted there.

Spring break begins on Friday, April 10th and all staff will be taking a well-deserved break. I have asked each and everyone in the Stonington Public Schools community to "unplug" and enjoy their families and the outdoors during that week. Please respect their space during the week as it is important they take care of themselves. You and your children should not expect to receive any communication during spring break from the staff as the schools will be closed.

The curriculum team will be posting optional activities for families and students on the district website if you wish to provide your children with supplemental learning experiences over the vacation. Also note the buildings are all closed to the public and will remain closed until further notice. In the interest of everyone's health and safety you and your children will not be able to retrieve belongings from the schools at this time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Van Riley  
Superintendent