

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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April 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

I wanted to reach out to you before we begin spring break and share some new information as well as recap important highlights specific to our distance learning program. Our teachers have been doing an amazing job adjusting to the new distance learning model and being open to adjustments in both pacing and workloads at all grade levels. Our food service department continues to provide meals to families in need each weekday and the technology team has stepped up to meet the program and hardware demands of the new model. Our custodial/maintenance staff are on hand keeping the school and town buildings clean and safe. They have 17 town buildings on their schedule to clean and disinfect.

Shortly after students return from spring break we will be sending out a brief survey to you to get feedback on what is working with the distance learning model from your perspective and what areas you may want to see adjusted as well as checking on the general well-being of each of your families during this challenging time. We are committed to supporting you to the best of our capabilities in every possible way.

As of today, April 9th Governor Lamont has extended the distance learning window until May 20th. There is a strong possibility this new window may also be extended to the end of the school year. You will be updated as soon as possible should this come to fruition as it is not certain when the peak of this virus will hit the southeastern portion of Connecticut. District office personnel are working closely with Ledge Light officials and following all safety and notification procedures as they advise. Please note as educators we are not public health experts and it is imperative we follow Ledge Light's protocols to avoid unnecessary confusion and anxiety.

Just a reminder all state testing this year has been cancelled and this includes the Smarter Balanced Assessment, Next Generation of Science Standards Assessment, and the Connecticut SAT day. Advanced Placement exams will take place in an abbreviated format and the high school administrators are in contact with the students who will be taking the exams from home later this spring.

My directive to all staff over the April break is to put their devices and work aside to recharge and focus on their own health and that of their families. Do not expect to be in receipt of communication from staff members over the vacation week. The technology department will resume scheduling appointments as of Monday, April 20th. If you encounter hardware issues you may contact them at that time. I have also asked teachers not to assign work over the holiday break in order for students to recalibrate and enjoy the vacation time with their families. Should you be interested in engaging your children in valuable learning experiences the curriculum team has put together a menu of options you may access on our district website entitled, [April Vacation Enrichment Resources](#). This resource is to support you if you are in need of "rainy day" activities for your children or family and are not intended to be required school related assignments.

Dr. Van Riley
Superintendent