

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

40 FIELD STREET • PAWCATUCK, CT 06379

PHONE: (860) 572-0506

FAX: (860) 572-1470



BOARD OF EDUCATION: Alexa J. Garvey, Chair; Candace Anderson, Secretary

SUPERINTENDENT
Van W. Riley, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
Mary Anne Butler

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES
Allison Van Etten

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Gary J. Shettle

May 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

At long last the fabulous spring weather has arrived and hopefully you and your family are taking time to enjoy the beautiful scenery our local seacoast offers! As we all look forward to the upcoming holiday weekend, I wanted to touch base with you on the latest developments regarding the remainder of the current school year and plans for this summer.

This week we have received some further direction from the governor and the Connecticut State Department of Education on graduation protocols and the parameters for summer school. We remain committed to adhering to the guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and our own public health professionals at Ledge Light to ensure any program decisions are made with the safety of students and staff in mind. At this time we do not believe we have the operational capacity to safely open the facilities for in person summer programming. The Director of Special Services will be reaching out to families shortly with specific online program offerings for the extended school year program for our students with special needs. At this time we plan to limit distance learning summer school offerings to only those students who are eligible for the extended school year programming through special services. Discussions are underway to explore options for possible orientation sessions for incoming students in grades K, 6 and 9 to ease their transition into new schools this fall. When those plans are solidified you will be notified by the principal about the logistics and content of those sessions. District Office personnel and the principals are also in the process of identifying the optimum solution for providing supplemental instruction at each building during the upcoming school year and the following summer. Those plans will be released after the district can confirm what the reentry plan for August of 2020 will look like and that will most likely be sometime in mid to late July.

District and school offices will remain closed through the summer and personnel will continue to work remotely as recommended by the CDC. Personnel will be answering the phones and emails should you need to contact anyone at the district level or at a school building. All playgrounds and most fields are also closed to the public indefinitely due to safety and health concerns.

A reminder, June 2nd is a full day of staff professional development and no online learning sessions will be taking place. The last day of instruction will be on Wednesday, June 17th and grades will close at that time. Students will be allowed to keep the devices supplied by the district over the summer. Students in grades 6-8 will be given instructions directly from the Technology Department on arrangements to swap out devices over the summer as part of the district device refresh and rollover. Thursday, June 18th and Friday, June 19th will be dedicated to end of year activities and celebrations.

Our reentry planning has begun as of this week and as decisions unfold about the next school year I will be reaching out to you and sharing those plans. I encourage you to check our district website frequently for updates as well.

Finally, I leave you this week with some great news! Graduation will be held on June 19th! A special thanks to Mr. Chris Reagan and his family at The Mystic Village for assisting in providing the best graduation possible under these circumstances, and Stonington High School's Class of '88 Doug Jastremski of Posse Power Productions for the presentation expertise. The ceremony will be at Mystic Village and will commence at dusk, tentatively around 8:45 p.m. We still must comply with all state mandates, so there will be a one-car per graduate limit. We are keeping June 23rd as a rain date. A simulcast of the event will be broadcast for family members who cannot attend. All plans must still be approved through Ledge Light Health District, once that is complete we will share the specifics about the event.

Enjoy the long weekend with your families!

Sincerely,

Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent