



# GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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May 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your child has been recommended to receive Extended School Year Services (ESY) by his/her school team in order to maintain skills during the summer break and to prevent significant regression in September. The district has an obligation to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with exceptional circumstances that are affecting how these services will be provided. In considering what is reasonable, appropriate, and equitable under the current circumstances and public health restrictions, the district will be delivering ESY services through a distance learning model to all eligible students this summer.

The district's distance learning program will be delivered virtually through the use of several virtual classrooms, Google Classroom and See Saw as well as through daily live sessions with students, teachers, paraprofessionals, and related services providers. All teachers will receive professional development in these virtual platforms and will have additional planning time each week to collaborate with their instructional teams to design engaging activities that support student's IEP goals and objectives to the maximum extent possible. Students will have access to research based learning programs such as Lexia for reading, Dream Box for Math, and Teach Town's Basics Program for in-home ABA therapy. We are also exploring options for virtual field trips, group games, and social-emotional activities that will address social skills and provide enrichment opportunities in high interest areas.

You will be receiving information from our ESY co-directors Allyson Lubs and Sara Brown regarding your child's teacher for the ESY session as well as the dates and times of the program in the next few weeks. I hope that you and your family are healthy and well and that your child joins for a summer of continued learning.

Sincerely,

*Denise A. Doolittle*

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Director, Pupil Personnel Services