

# STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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June 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

It's hard to believe we are preparing to close out the school year in just two more weeks. The staff is planning unique ways to celebrate student transitions from one grade to another, one building to another, and to honor the biggest and most significant transition undertaken by our graduating Class of 2020 on June 19th. It is important to all of us that you and the students know they are always at the center of our work and although they may not be physically with us, they and their well-being remain at the heart of our daily operation. As the plans for end of year ceremonies are released by the principals, pay careful attention to safety considerations as the health of our students, staff and families are paramount at all end of year gatherings. Make sure you read protocols provided to you by the school administrators to ensure the safety of you, your children and everyone else in attendance is at the forefront of each event.

I would be remiss not to reiterate the sentiments of our Commissioner of Education, Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, concerning the recent protests and riots across our country. With all of our students and families studying and working from home it is certain no one has escaped viewing the violent and hateful events of the past several days. Now more than ever it is imperative our students know school is a safe place and a forum where diversity is embraced not merely tolerated. Dr. Cardona provided a plethora of resources to help teachers, students and families discuss racism and issues of equity. You may find his letter and the supporting resources on our [district website](#).

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) continues to provide guidance on expectations for summer school and the reentry plans for the upcoming school year. The information is fluid and ever changing. As we make decisions based upon the most current guidance and the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) advice, you will be updated accordingly. The first and most timely decision is to hold the Extended School Year program offerings for students with disabilities in an online model only this summer. Credit recovery at Stonington High School will be taking place in a remote model with online course offerings being supplemented by Stonington High School teachers being available remotely for additional instruction. There will not be any additional summer school offerings this year as at this point in time we cannot operationally safely provide in person instruction based upon the CDC guidelines. All information concerning ESY and credit recovery will be posted on our district website as directed by the CSDE.

The Distance Learning Plan has been updated in anticipation of the need to implement the remote learning model in some fashion next year. The principals will be meeting with District Office administrators on June 23rd to discuss possible models of reentry. All staff has been provided a preference survey to assess their readiness to return to an in person instructional delivery model. Next week principals will be sending out a similar survey to families to assess the readiness and willingness to send your children back to an in person delivery model versus maintaining a remote learning environment. We know these are baseline data points and preferences will shift based on numerous factors including changes in public health recommendations, childcare availability and personal/family health issues. These responses will not "lock you in" to any decision, but be of great help to us in knowing what parameters we need to consider about the reentry model. It is critical to complete the form based upon the current information and needs you have now. As the summer progresses your assessment may change and principals will be capturing that updated information as the school year approaches.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Van W. Riley'.

Dr. Van Riley  
Superintendent