

April 29, 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians of Norfolk Public School Students,

I hope you and your family continue to remain safe and healthy during this period of school closure. We are all disappointed that we will not be able to reopen school this year, as we greatly miss seeing our students' smiling faces each day and sharing in the joy of learning in our classrooms. We recognize that this is also very hard on our students who miss seeing their teachers, staff members and friends. I hope that you enjoyed the special videos created by our teachers and staff and shared with your children last week!

**Governor Baker's Announcement:**

Based on the extended school closure, the Massachusetts Department of Education issued new guidance on Friday, April 24th for remote learning in the Commonwealth. At this time the Department is allowing districts to move forward with teaching some new content and has identified core learning standards at each grade level that students need to master in order to be successful in the following grade.

**Remote Learning Changes:**

In response to the new guidance, the Norfolk Public Schools will focus all future remote learning on addressing these essential learning standards. As a result, we will be revising the academic assignments and learning tasks on the academic calendars to provide students with opportunities to explore and practice new learning. We will also be increasing the amount of pre-recorded lessons, assignments and feedback provided to students on their work. This is consistent with parent feedback from our recent parent survey (Results can be viewed on the [Covid 19 Updates](#) tab of our website ), as well as recommendations from the Department of Education.

Pre-recorded lessons allow parents and families needed flexibility with scheduling learning blocks. Teachers in the primary grades will be offering an increase in pre-recorded instruction and small group follow-up sessions, and will continue to provide or add non-academic social/emotional opportunities for students to connect with staff members and peers. Teachers in the upper grades will continue to provide some live lessons each week to supplement the additional pre-recorded instruction. We will be working hard to maintain the current times for live learning lessons, so that families do not have to adjust their schedules further. For detailed information on revisions to our remote learning platform please click on the district [Covid 19 Updates](#) section of our website. Teachers will continue to communicate directly with families information specific to their classroom schedules.

**Professional Development Day- Monday, May 4th**

In order for our teachers to plan for the transition to new content and to ensure consistency of instruction across the grade level, Monday, May 4th will be a professional development day for staff. **We will provide academic content and assignments in the grade level calendars.**

**but pre-recorded and live lessons for Monday, May 4th will be suspended.** Our teachers need time to plan and design new remote learning experiences for students and revise the scope and sequence of instruction to be consistent with DESE guidelines..

### **Enrichment/ Summer**

Please be advised that for parents and families seeking additional academic materials and resources, we will continue to provide these under the [Additional Resource](#) tab of our district Covid 19 website. Lastly, as we recognize that many of our families are having difficulty supporting remote learning at home, we will be leaving all of our academic calendars and pre-recorded lessons live throughout the summer for students and parents to access. If your child is sick or unable to complete any assignments, they can go back to weekly calendars at any time that is convenient for your family.

### **Communication:**

As we move forward we will continue to keep our website updated with current information and resources regarding remote learning and Covid 19. We will also be working to streamline future district communication in order to make it more manageable for parents and guardians. Wishing all of you the best as we head into Spring. If you have any questions at all or if I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me either through email at [allardi@norfolk.k12.ma.us](mailto:allardi@norfolk.k12.ma.us) or by calling 508-528-1225.

Sincerely,

Ingrid N. Allardi