

Beverly Public Schools

Good Afternoon Beverly School Community,

As I write to you today, we are entering our last official week of the 2019-2020 school year. And as we all know - what a year it has been. Little did I know at the start of this school year how different the last week of school would be. I want to thank all of you for your support throughout the year. As the 2019-2020 school year and remote learning winds down, we hope the hard work of every single member of our staff during these unprecedented times has helped you and your child navigate your "new normal". The Beverly Public Schools has been a leader on the North Shore, developing our Beverly Keeps Learning platform, creating and curating enrichment activities for our students, and when the guidance allowed, shifting to synchronous and asynchronous learning on new content and standards.

We know that we were not always perfect. These were uncharted waters and we were learning alongside all of you. You were asked to become at home support staff for your child without any training and we appreciate the efforts of all of you. However, we are certainly aiming to finish strong, whether it is with our virtual field day events for all our elementary students, our rolling visits by staff to their students, our virtual National Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society Inductions, our amazing spring concerts, our virtual talent shows, and celebrations of our Grade Four Rolling Car Parades at each of our elementary schools. These events do not occur by happenstance - it involved an incredible collaboration by teachers and administrators and I am so very grateful to all of them for their dedication to showing all of you how much we have missed and love your child!

I also want to take this opportunity to share with you some more information and our planning efforts as we look toward summer and into the fall. Internally, we have begun preliminary efforts with staff and municipal leaders for reopening next year. At this time, we are awaiting information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding guidance for the fall reopening of schools. We believe that this will be very structured guidance that outlines the expectations for the school environment, teaching and learning, operations, technology, food services and social-emotional learning.

DESE has recently released guidance documents that have been featured in many news reports. This initial guidance is important for reopening schools for summer programming based on the **public health guidelines in place now**, and we look forward to receiving updated guidance for the fall from the Commissioner in the near future. Please do not interpret these documents as the framework for the fall. For us, this information was meant to offer guidance for ordering supplies that we may need and to provide a little extra time to procure items that

make take longer than usual due to the current demands. I know that students, parents/guardians and staff have many questions about a return to school. As a result, we are proactively creating groups that will represent all sectors of our community to help develop our plans. We will be seeking active parent participation.

You can help us by providing feedback on your child's remote learning experience through a survey that will be emailed to you in the coming weeks. Like so many districts, we are faced with many challenges as we plan to safely reopen the Beverly Public Schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Our goal is to use survey information, teacher feedback and input, along with information from our working groups and district leadership team to advise municipal and school leadership on the best way to reopen schools safely in the fall.

Please enjoy this last week of school! Again, I appreciate your continued support as we work toward providing a safe environment for our students and employees. You will be hearing from us in the coming week with information regarding our Extended School Year summer programming for Special Education students and other opportunities we will be offering our students to ensure that Beverly Keeps Learning!

My wishes for a safe and happy summer!

Sue Charochak, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools