



OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Sailing Towards Success”

March 17, 2020

Dear Oxford Public Schools Families and Staff,

Last evening, the Oxford School Committee appointed me as the Acting Superintendent of Schools for Oxford Public Schools, relieving Dr. Susan Henrichon from the temporary additional responsibilities. As many of you are aware, I served as your Interim Superintendent during the 2017-2018 school year; therefore, I am familiar with the District and have worked closely with your School Committee members and Administrative Team. I come to you with over 40 years of experience in the field of education. I have already met with Dr. Henrichon to ensure a smooth transition.

It goes without saying that our nation is experiencing some extremely challenging times with the current COVID-19 health crisis that has affected our lives in so many ways. I want to assure you that the Oxford Public School District has been staying abreast of any and all changes and updates and we are in consistent communication with the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As you know, Governor Baker issued a three-week mandated closure of all public schools in Massachusetts in an attempt to stem to spreading of this virus.

While our schools may be closed, our District staff will remain working in various ways (some from home) to ensure that the needs of our students are met, and to ensure our buildings are ready for their return in the future. For example, I met this morning with our custodial staff to review cleaning practices and confirm that we are using EPA-approved cleaning materials. The custodial staff will focus their time over the next 2½ weeks on a deep and thorough cleaning of our school buildings with particular attention to high-touch and high-frequency areas.

This afternoon I met with our Building Principals and Assistant Principals to discuss the most effective and efficient ways to provide educational enrichment to our students while they are away from the regular teaching and learning day. It is important to keep their minds active and engaged during this time. We anticipate that learning packets will be made available beginning next Monday, and teachers will be available remotely certain hours each day. More information will follow on that later this week. We will also implement a telephone hotline for parents and students to call with questions about the enrichment work. This work will not be graded; it is for enrichment purposes only.

For our students who rely on daily meals at school, beginning this Thursday our Food Service Department is implementing a “Grab and Go” meal arrangement, whereby families may arrive at Oxford High School between 8:00am-11:00am to pick up boxed meals. Further, we are working with our counseling staff to accommodate the needs of students who require social-emotional supports. The current circumstances and changes to “normal” daily life may cause or exacerbate anxiety in some students, and we want to be sure we are providing the supports needed. Lastly, Dr. Henrichon has made arrangements with our school nurses so that parents may stop by their student’s school to retrieve any medication on file. Parents can retrieve medication this Thursday from _____ - _____.

In closing, thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time. I will provide updates and additional information as it becomes available. In the meantime, please adhere to the social distancing guidelines and keep your families safe and healthy!

With warmest regards,

Dr. Kristine Nash, Acting Superintendent

Dr. Susan Henrichon, Assistant Superintendent
of Student Services and Special Education

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