



# OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*“Sailing Towards Success”*

May 1, 2020

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Hopefully, we have rounded the corner and left the rain and cold of April to enjoy the promise of May with sunshine and flowers. I wish that I could say that we have also rounded the corner with COVID-19 and that it is safe for students to return to school and to their teachers and classrooms. Sadly, as you know, this is not the case for this school year. Students will continue to be taught through a remote learning modality where classrooms have become a room in a student’s home and where students engage in learning while sitting at their dining room or kitchen tables, in their bedrooms, or living rooms. We recognize how these non-traditional classroom settings can dramatically impact teaching and learning. The parent survey on remote learning that many of you have taken time to complete speaks to some of the challenges when students are not in a classroom with a teacher in front of them. In the survey, many of you noted the lack of focus, engagement, and motivation that you see from your child. You addressed the difficulties you have in trying to balance working from home and working with your children. You address the challenge of being an essential worker who cannot oversee your child’s work as you need to be out of the home.

There is no substitute for what teachers in their classrooms bring daily to their students. So while we have “flipped” the traditional classroom and while we will finish out the year with students learning remotely, I want to assure you that in the last six weeks of this school year (Phase III of remote learning), the administrators and teachers will be doubling down to refine and strengthen this learning platform with the aim to ensure a quality remote learning program for all students. In accordance with the most recent guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), teachers will be focusing on the following objectives in this last phase:

- *A new focus on teaching the content standards most critical for student success in the next grade level which DESE has identified in grade/content specific documents as “Prerequisite Content Standards”*
- *A renewed focus on identifying the academic and/or social-emotional barriers for successful student engagement and then providing the supports*

I will be sharing our Phase III Plan, “Strengthening Remote Learning,” at a later date. In the meantime, I want to share a video link with you from the Clara Barton staff which captures the essence of how our staff feel without their students. Stay well. LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DiPljWLqoc>

With warmest wishes,

*Kristine E. Nash*

Kristine E. Nash Ed.D., Acting Superintendent

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