



NMRSD Update Wednesday, April 22, 2020

I hope everyone is doing well and that you have had a chance to digest the closure. Please review this update in its entirety.

Starting with some GOOD news...

- Congratulations to **Dr. Kevin Cormier**, a mathematics teacher at the Nissitissit Middle School, who obtained his Ed.D., in Educational Leadership with a focus on STEM Education from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Cormier has been instrumental in many curriculum, instruction, and assessment initiatives in the district.
- Congratulations to **Ms. Jessica Kimball**, a teacher in the LEAP Program who gave birth to a baby boy on April 20th. Bode William Kimball was born at 5:36pm and weighed 7lbs and 15oz.
- ***Light the Night for the Class of 2020***
Beginning May 1st at 20:20 hours (8:20pm), North Middlesex will aim to spread a message of hope by shining the athletic field stadium lights for 20 minutes. We want the community and the Class of 2020 to know that we are in this together. This will happen every "school" night until the day the Class of 2020 graduates from NM.

Please note that the campus and facility are and will remain closed.

Thank you to our Athletic Director, Mr. Cam Fisk for organizing this special tribute.

Student Belongings

Students will be provided with an opportunity to go to their respective schools and gather their belongings. K-8 students must be escorted by one (1) parent or caregiver and high school students must enter the building independently.

Anyone entering a building **must wear both a face covering and gloves.**

Principals will be in contact with families as these days are set, but this will not occur until May at the earliest as we want to make sure the surge has passed.

Closure for the Year

We have been asked by a few people to provide students with the opportunity to say goodbye to their teachers (especially at the younger levels). The reality is that this simply may not be possible with the current order which extends through June. Please keep in mind that we have staff and students that are medically fragile. It is also important to point out that any such arrangements would have to be approved by the Department of Public Health.

Remote Learning

Remote Learning for the state of Massachusetts now enters into Phase III, which will take us to the end of our school year. Districts will be provided guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by the end of this week. Districts have been told that DESE will be providing “power standards” which would be considered essential standards for each grade level to be successful the following year. Once we are provided these standards, the district will provide guidance to staff and parents around the next steps. The Commissioner continues to echo that connecting with families is the priority. Although we do not want to minimize learning, we want to make sure that we can equitably service students to the best of our ability. Please continue to work on a daily schedule as best you can, as we know routine and structure are the best ways to allow students to maximize the retention of information and process new information effectively.

As in Phase II, teachers should be connecting with your children weekly with tasks and activities, providing feedback around submitted work, and virtually meeting with students for academic and/or social purposes. Please contact your child’s teacher with any questions.

2020-2021 School Year

In response to the many questions we have received ... students are **NOT** repeating their current grade. While we recognize that students have lost something this year, most of the country has as well, and adjustments will be made in curriculum and instruction throughout the state of Massachusetts to ensure students are exposed to the prescribed curriculum.

Graduation & End of the Year Activities

At this point, we are organizing a meeting with area high school principals and superintendents to brainstorm ideas related to graduation. Any recommendations that are made will need to be approved by the Department of Public Health.

Principals at all levels will be working on their end of year celebrations as well and they too will be different than in years past.

Townsend Face Mask Advisory

The Townsend Board of Health hereby recommends the use of face masks as a measure to help slow the spread of COVID-19, and to protect yourself and those around you. The Board advises that every person wear a face mask in public settings (i.e. grocery stores and pharmacies), while performing duties for an essential service, and any other circumstance where it may be difficult to maintain a social distance of six feet from others.

In addition to wearing a cloth mask, you should continue to practice proven methods to protect yourself:

- Practice social distancing at all times by remaining 6 feet away from others when you have to leave your home for essential trips.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; using alcohol-based hand gel with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.