

**Dear Holliston Parents/Guardians and Staff:**

**On April 24, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary Secondary Education (DESE) issued new guidance for Massachusetts districts and schools, Strengthening Our Remote Learning Experience. Knowing that our school building would remain closed for the remainder of the school year, this guidance provided another opportunity to reflect and inform the ongoing adjustments to our remote learning programming for students. The attached [HPS Remote Learning Plan Phase III Addendum](#) to our Holliston Public Schools Remote Learning Plan, published on April 6, 2020, is intended to highlight how remote learning programming continues to evolve in our district.**

**The DESE guidance called on districts to focus on two parts:**

- **Strengthening our remote learning program for all students.**
- **Developing a system for identifying and supporting students not effectively engaged in remote learning.**

**With respect to strengthening the remote learning program for all students, DESE divided this section into four parts which are reflected in this document:**

1. **Prioritizing meaningful connections with educators and peers**
2. **Provide engaging core instruction focused on the prerequisite content standards that are most critical for success in the next grade**
3. **Offer opportunities for enrichment, exercise and play**
4. **Ensure programming is accessible and secure and communication is streamlined for students and their families.**

**Fortunately, the Department's guidance was strongly aligned to the work already being done to continuously improve our remote learning programming during this unprecedented time. While the hard work, collaboration and creativity of educators throughout the district has been incredibly impressive, we will continue to make adjustments in order to best serve the students of Holliston during this extraordinary time.**

**We have also begun initial conversations regarding next year. While we hope with all of our hearts to be able to reenter the school buildings next year and see all of our students and educators together again, we will also be preparing for scenarios that might require additional remote learning or other creative solutions if the health emergency has not resolved sufficiently by next year's opening day. Realistically, however, it will not be until August until we have a clearer picture of what September will look like. However, we will dedicate ourselves to planning for multiple possibilities and will communicate more as we get more guidance from the governor's office and public health officials in the state.**

**We appreciate your continued patience and support as we work to continue to improve for the remainder of the year and begin to make plans for next year.**

**Respectfully,**

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Superintendent of Schools**

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Assistant Superintendent of Schools**