

East Haddam Public Schools

Brian S. Reas, Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents,

First and foremost is my wish for you to have a restful and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. I cannot remember ever missing the Memorial Day Parade and it gives me pause to consider that this is one more loss from Covid19. Maybe there is an opportunity to reach out to a veteran or visit and or point out a monument such as the one on the Moodus Green.

We are still trying to conceptualize what summer programming will look like for our students. We will be offering a distance learning option for many of our students. I will let you know as soon as possible if we are able to add an inside school building option as well.

I read through the feedback on the surveys last week and am sincerely appreciative of the time you have committed to respond to them. While the most impactful part of the survey comes when teachers are able to incorporate your feedback into their planning, the leadership team and I process the feedback from our respective roles. I thought you might appreciate my sharing some themes from the surveys. There is a wide continuum of responses to our questions, as you will see in all of these themes.

Regarding how the student well-being is going, parents expressed some concerns about the struggles with online learning and being overwhelmed. Other parents indicated that things are going well and that the ability to get outside to nicer weather is helpful to their well-being.

Regarding the question focused on workload, reading the responses felt like reading about 'Goldie Locks and the Three Bears'. While the majority of the responses were close to 'just right', we did have responses that indicated that the work was too hard and too easy. One theme in these responses was that parents indicated that they shared their concerns directly with teachers and that this helped the situation. I would encourage you to consider this if you have not already.

Many responses around the general comments were focused on appreciation for all our staff do. Thank you. I know that many hours have been poured into this distance learning process. There were some requests to end the school year early, summer school suggestions and some comments of frustration with the process. Every suggestion and comment helps us contextualize our current school program and plan for the future in an informed way.

Please do not hesitate to pick up meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The meals are free for all school-aged children. A reminder that this Monday, the holiday, we will not be offering meal service.

We will continue to adjust and learn from this experience as a school system and your input is incredibly valuable to us. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the leadership team if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely,



Brian S. Reas
Superintendent of Schools