



DANVERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Department of Student Services
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Dr. Mary Tatem, Director

September 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians;

It certainly has been quite a spring and summer! Administrators have been working extremely hard to prepare for the opening of schools to our students. It has been and continues to be an arduous task as things change rather quickly. The District has provided a FAQ page on the website which I hope you have found helpful. In addition, the District will be posting on the website updated health and safety information in regard to COVID-19. The District had asked parents/guardians to choose if they would like their child(ren) to participate in hybrid or remote learning during the 2020-21 school year while the pandemic interrupts the typical educational school year. The choice of hybrid or remote dictates much of the planning for students. Staff has returned in the past week that enables us to really get to the details of the planning. All the plans and schedules that are being made must take into account necessary health and safety requirements for our students and staff, staffing considerations, space in any given classroom/school, masks and breaks, student and staff movement within the buildings, minimization of contacts as well as, of course, curriculum.

With regard to your children who are on an Individual Education Program (IEP), the services recommended on the IEP will necessarily be implemented differently than as outlined in your child's current IEP due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Services may be provided remotely or in person and may require different frequencies and durations depending on the learning model. Your child's liaison will be working with you on those details. It is important to note that a change in the delivery of special education services due to a school's change in learning model as a result of COVID-19 does not result in a change to your child's IEP. Your child's liaison will be contacting you soon to discuss and get your input on the development of the Special Education Services Plan During COVID-19. The plan will be documented soon thereafter and sent to you via email or regular mail. Please be assured that your child will receive the services, albeit delivered differently, proscribed on their IEP. If you do not hear from your child's liaison by Friday, Sept 18, please let your child's principal know.

We are a school system that embraces inclusion for all in whatever way is appropriate for any given student. The pandemic, with the strict health and safety guidelines, has altered what we can do. However, we are thinking as creatively as health and safety guidelines will

allow in order to get our children included wherever we can, if they are not already. We anticipate we will be able to build integration in to children's day at some point whether it be remote, outdoors or in some other manner.

We will be holding IEP meetings remotely as we did this past spring. Meeting remotely significantly increased the ability for required Team members including parents to attend. Please let your child's liaison know if you need to meet in person.

SEPAC will be holding the first meeting of the year on Monday, September 21 at 6 p.m. The format will be similar to the Family Forums presented by each school. We will need your questions sent to me by Thursday, September 17th to enable us to answer them at the forum. My contact information is tatem@danvers.org.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for your flexibility and understanding while we have been trying to figure all of these complicated and ever changing guidelines, rules, requirements and details out. We all want to be "back to normal" but as that cannot be, we continue to strive to do our very best for all our students to progress and meet success.

Most sincerely,

M. Tatem, Psy.D.

Dr. Mary Tatem
Director of Student Services