

It is hard to believe that June is here and we are thinking about wrapping up the 2019-2020 academic year. It has been one that no one could have predicted and we end the year without the normal activities, events, and celebrations that traditionally mark the end of the year and the beginning of summer. Despite the unprecedented experiences of the last 3 months, the staff at each school has worked to find ways to mark the end of the school year with both traditional and new experiences. So as we approach our last days of school and prepare to head into summer vacation, please review the important information that below:

END OF YEAR PLANNING AND INFORMATION

Closeout of School

Parents will be receiving information about the schedule for return of materials to schools and pick-up of student materials that may have remained in student desks or lockers. In order to facilitate the collection and inventory of all returned materials prior to school closing, we have established a drive-up process with specific dates and timeframes for the return of textbooks, library books, calculators, Chromebooks, and any other school-issued items. Information about what needs to be returned and the dates and times will be sent by the schools next week. Please watch for this information and we appreciate your assistance in this important process.

End of Year Transitions and Celebrations

Joel Elementary School and Eliot Middle School are developing plans to recognize and celebrate the 4th grade and 8th grade students who will be transitioning from their schools. Each school will be sharing details with parents and students through their school communications. While we are limited in being able to come together at the end of this year, the plans being developed are focused on keeping our traditions and recognizing our students and their achievements as they leave their current school and begin their new journey next year in a new school community.

The Morgan School Graduation is scheduled for June 10, 2020 and is being planned in a manner that meets all existing health and safety protocols for gatherings. Seniors and their parents have been given information about the events and activities for the members of the Class of 2020. Additional information regarding the details has been mailed and the high school administration will continue to communicate any additional information or details through School Messenger. The ceremony will begin with a public release of a video of the traditional speeches that are part of The Morgan School Graduation program followed by an on-campus experience for graduates and their families only. In order to include friends, extended family, and community members who will not be able to be on campus during the graduation, the event will be livestreamed and a video of the graduation speeches will be posted for all to access. More information on how to watch the speeches and ceremony will be provided as soon as it is finalized.

SPECIAL SERVICES UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR KIMBERLY PEARCE

For parents of students receiving special education services and who were recommended for Extended School Year (ESY) through the IEP process:

The school district is awaiting finalized guidance from the state regarding the reopening of school buildings. In the meantime, we are in the process of determining how ESY services will be provided. All options are being explored, including opening for ESY with services provided in-person, providing ESY services through an online learning model, or some combination considering the following factors:

- Ensuring that timely and required protocols are in place according to updated guidance in order to safely open ESY services in person
- Student needs
- Type of services/programs and what they require
- Ensuring that we will have available staff required to meet the updated guidelines
- Location of in-person ESY services. As most of you are aware, prior to the COVID-19 related closure of schools, the plan was for ESY services to be provided at The Morgan School this summer due to roofing projects planned for our other schools

If your child's Planning and Placement Team (PPT) recommended Extended School Year (ESY) as part of your child's IEP, you will be receiving a brief survey at the beginning of the week. The survey will contain two questions and we ask that you complete the surveys as soon as possible so we can finalize our plans for the provision of ESY.

The original schedule for ESY was for 6/29/20-7/23/20. While we cannot yet provide details on whether we will be providing ESY services in-person, we do know that the earliest date we will be allowed to provide services in-person should we do so will be 7/6/20. Once we finalize our plans for ESY, we will confirm the dates, times, and details with all families of students receiving ESY.

Thank you for your continued patience as we await further guidance.

MEAL SERVICE

Meal service will continue as normal at The Morgan School and the Pierson School site through June 5th from 11:00-12:30 each day. The last week of school includes events that may impact the days and times for meal distribution. In addition, we will continue our meal service through June 30th, and we are hoping to qualify to continue to provide meal service in July and August. We will share that information as soon as we have the approval and can determine the process, locations, and times for distribution.

We are currently working on the schedule for the week of June 8th and through the end of June and will communicate that through the Weekly Blasts on Friday, June 5th.

PLANNING FOR REOPENING

We understand that the biggest question that we all have is what next school year will look like. Current trends in the gradual lifting of restrictions leaves us with a sense of optimism that we will be able to return to school in some fashion in September. What is unclear yet is what measures need to be put in place to ensure

the safety of students and staff. We will continue to monitor information from the Governor and State Department of Education working groups who are creating guidelines and potential models for what schools may look like in September. In addition, we will work with local and state health officials to meet all requirements and we will share information with you as it becomes available. Finally, we will use this summer to plan for teaching and learning this fall. Our administrators and teachers will be planning for a return that may have us on-campus, online, or a blended approach. We will use the experience of the last three months and information we can glean from staff and families to help us design instruction that meets the needs of our students and helps them become stronger and more skilled learners.