

April 16, 2020 School Closure Update

At a press conference today, Governor Chris Sununu announced that Remote Learning will be extended to the end of the school year. Therefore, we are taking the following steps:

- **Our schools will not be reopening, and remote learning will remain in place for the rest of the school year.**
- Regrettably, this includes the cancellation of the spring sports season by the NHIAA.
- We now plan to hold 3 school days on April 28, 29 and 30 and take 2 long weekends (using April 27 & May 1 as vacation days).
- We are still evaluating how the school year will end for students and staff. The current last day is June 18, but we anticipate a shift in format to provide staff PD as closure for the year. More details to follow.
- Principals are developing a plan for staff to close out their rooms for the year so the custodians can begin the process of summer cleaning and prepping for school reopening in the fall. Parents can anticipate an opportunity to pick up any remaining student belongings in the weeks to come.
- There is emerging knowledge of asymptomatic or "silent" carriers of the COVID-19 virus. It is now understood that many children are silent carriers and pose risk of transmission to older family members or care-givers (like our staff). Without widespread testing, this remains a main area of concern for public school systems and the health-care system in general. This new knowledge is worth monitoring through the summer and into the fall.
- We have been encouraged to be creative and innovative with "rights of passage" like graduation, prom, step-up days, etc. If someone sees a great idea, please share it with your school leaders. In Litchfield, we are nimble enough as an organization to honor these milestones for our students and families!
- We have also been encouraged to be creative and innovative in finding local solutions to questions about curriculum, assessment and reporting/ grading. Our local CIA Director, Mary Widman, is working with principals and leadership teams to determine how best to proceed for each Litchfield school. FYI - CIA stands for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment! It's just fun to have a CIA Director on staff...

More to come as we solidify plans. For now, take care, stay strong and Be Well!

Mike Jette, Superintendent of Schools