

May 26, 2020 COVID-19 Update

A message from LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU 27

Good Morning, Litchfield!

I hope everyone was able to enjoy Memorial Day weekend and the traditional start of summer! It may be different in a pandemic, but the weather was certainly cooperative and there is still plenty to do or not to do - rest and relaxation is very important right now.

PLANNING SAFE EVENTS - Please keep an eye on weekly school newsletters. There are lots of "end of the year" events being announced for students and families. To make these events safe and enjoyable, we need to remind everyone that the rules of physical distancing have to be followed by everyone. Reverse parades and a redesigned graduation will help us mark student rights of passage. However, we need everyone to cooperate with the safety rules and restrictions. These rules and restrictions are designed to protect not just you, but also other participants who may have underlying health issues. Choosing to participate in these events means we respect each other by adhering to the stated safety restrictions.

IMPORTANT SURVEY - We are in the process of thinking about reopening schools in the fall. The NH Department of Education (NHDOE) has created a Taskforce to provide guidance to local school districts. The state Taskforce has developed a [Survey of Stakeholders](#), and I urge everyone to take time to complete this survey. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete and it is accepting responses through this Friday night (5/29 at 8pm). Let's have a strong Litchfield voice in this survey!

LOCAL PLANNING - We are creating a parallel local Taskforce in Litchfield that will be meeting in July to review the recommendations of the NHDOE. These recommendations will be focused in 4 key areas: Instruction, Student Wellness, Operations, and Technology. Based on the most recent survey of Litchfield parents, students and staff, our challenge will be to open schools in August so parents and caregivers can return to work while also honoring the 25% of our workforce and the 30% of our parents who are not comfortable that the precautions we can take will ensure safety from the on-going pandemic.

Creating our local plan is a tall order, and we will only have a few weeks to review the state guidance (issued around June 30th) and develop a comprehensive plan for our three Litchfield schools and share it with our various stakeholders (early August). There will be opportunities for parents, staff and students to help shape our local plan - keep an eye on future newsletters for information or additional surveys.

Be well! Mike Jette, Superintendent of School