

District #702 Students, Families and Community:

The announcement we expected was delivered by the Governor last Friday afternoon that eliminated in person instruction through the end of the 2019-20 school year. While the news was not a surprise, there's no doubt the finality of an announcement still stings. We'll continue to remain resolute in our collective commitment to the students and families of District #702.

I'm amazed at the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from the majority of our stakeholders. In a District of 1,015 students, there have only been 11 students K-12 that we've heard nothing from throughout the shutdown. That's an amazing 99% rate. Granted, the level of engagement may vary, but we are still so grateful for the personal responsibility and effort shown by the vast majority of our students. Thank you!

Thursday, May 14 will be the last day of Remote Learning. The District will utilize the 5 planning days allowed by the State Board of Education at the end of our regular calendar. While details and guidelines still need to be established, we are hoping the buildings will be opened up for technology drop off May 18-20. Please look for further guidance in the near future.

District staff will be utilizing that last week to assess remote learning, collaborate on transitional issues as we move back to in-person instruction (hopefully in August), and complete other tasks congruent with the end of the school year.

Finally, we appreciate the numerous suggestions received regarding end of the year activities. The specific concern shown to the THS Class of 2020 and their loss of spring events and the finality of their time here is most noteworthy. **As of this moment, the Class of 2020 will receive their diplomas on Sunday, May 17 in some fashion.** We will not know exactly what that will look like until we have a better idea of the social distancing restrictions that might be in place. It's difficult to plan anything real specific, but the staff is floating around a few ideas that we believe will be meaningful to the Class of 2020.

Each of our 3 buildings is unique and there are numerous details to work through moving forward. You'll be hearing more from building principals in the coming days. Again, we could not be more pleased with the level of support our students, teachers, and district staff members have received from our families. Your understanding and patience has been greatly appreciated! While the disappointment with ending the year in this manner is understandable, let's dedicate ourselves to finishing this term Tremont Strong. Your efforts to date have been amazing; let's keep it going through May 14!

Keep up the great work,

Jeff Hinman
Superintendent