

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

50 East Street

New Milford, Connecticut 06776

(860) 355-8406 FAX (860) 210-4132



Dr. Kerry Parker
Superintendent of Schools

April 23, 2020

Dear NMPS Families,

We want to give our sincere thanks to you for your efforts regarding our District Learning Plan. We hope you are finding balance between home, work, and helping your child with online learning because your well-being is of the utmost importance. This distance learning has not been easy for any of us, which is why we have been so impressed with your efforts and ongoing feedback. It's been hard, but we're getting it done. We appreciate you!

As you may recall, the Leadership Team has been working on ways to integrate the use of live interactions and/or teaching since launching into the online environment in mid-March. It is due to the dedicated efforts of our teachers that we are ready to integrate the opportunity for live interactions with students in order to build community and support students in need of additional interaction and/or instructional support.

We have heard from many parents how much your children miss their friends and the personal interactions they have with their teachers. The implementation of live interactions with students is not mandatory; however, we are providing upcoming training opportunities so teachers can feel confident in their abilities as they begin to provide students with the sense of community they are missing during this time.

In an effort to build on feedback and ongoing student growth, we will be providing guidelines and training for teachers in order to support the incorporation of live interaction with students - both student to student and teacher to student. It is important to emphasize that we are not moving to synchronous learning, meaning no teacher will have all students logging in daily at a certain time in order to receive instruction. Instead, the live interactions may take the form of morning meetings, office hours, small group instruction by invitation when necessary, and tutorial type lessons that are teacher-led. As a district, we are reinforcing our model of **asynchronous learning**, meaning the delivery of learning that can be accessed at any time by our students, however, not required in real-time. Live interactions will be supplemental to what

is already in place. Live instruction can be recorded and offered in an asynchronous manner and we will share the options with teachers on how to utilize the Google platform to accomplish this. We see this as an invitation to explore a new way of working and connecting; even though we are alone together, we are continuing to build off of the strong classroom community we established when students were in our care.

Attached are the Guidelines for Utilizing Live Interactions [Guidance During Live Interactions.pdf](#) and the Remote Instruction Notice to Parents [NMPS Remote Instruction Notice to Parents.pdf](#). Please contact your child's school administrator regarding questions or concerns. We appreciate your partnership and assistance with our District Learning Plan.

Yours truly,
Kerry Parker, Alisha DiCorpo, and the Leadership Team