

# ERVING SCHOOL UNION #28

ERVING, LEVERETT, NEW SALEM, WENDELL, SHUTESBURY

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Dear Union #28 Families,

I hope this communication finds you and your families safe and healthy and you are finding the rhythm of remote learning with your children. I also hope you have found time to just enjoy with family, time to enjoy the outside and time for relaxation, too!

I want to again express my appreciation of and gratitude for our entire Union #28 community for their tireless efforts during this difficult time.

As you may have heard, Governor Baker has signed a bill suspending MCAS testing requirements for the school year, which enables our teachers and students to focus on continued learning and on personal well-being. I am grateful that our legislators and government officials heard the impact and burden that the testing would have had on our school communities. This law requires Commissioner Riley to vacate the annual requirement for standardized tests in our schools this year.

Some of you may have seen or heard about Amherst Superintendent Morris' article expressing his doubt that schools will re-open on May 4th. While we have not heard anything official from the Governor or Commissioner of Education at this time, we should begin to prepare for schools to remain closed through late May or even through the remainder of the school year. Extensions are possible if public health risks continue.

Our Union #28 schools will be adjusting their 2019-2020 academic calendars. On April 13, the school committee voted to adjust the calendar to continue remote learning for the four days of April vacation, April 21-24, and to cancel the Union #28 full day professional development day on May 22, making that day a student learning day. This adjustment to the calendar adds five school days to the current calendar and changes the last day of school for students to June 15.

Thank you for your continued support as we all rise to meet the challenges of these times.

Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,



Superintendent Jennifer Culkeen