

Good afternoon Parents, Guardians, and Students,

This is a message from Mr. Lemanski, Superintendent of Schools. I hope you are all healthy and safe.

We are now a little over a month into being out of school. I don't think anyone could have imagined we would be in the middle of a pandemic and our lives would be turned upside down. I want to take a moment to thank those of you that are in the Health field or are First Responders. I know from my own family members how stressful your lives are and the responsibility you have on your shoulders. Thank you for doing what you do. There is nothing more important than our health and many of you are taking care of us.

Doing school work remotely is not easy. I am seeing it from the educator side and I know how hard our staff members are working to meet the many needs of our District and unique circumstances faced by families. My children are well over school age so I can't imagine what many of you are going through as parents and having to help your children with school work. I understand how difficult this must be and I appreciate your efforts.

To this date, the District has distributed nearly 500 devices to students. I know there are some struggles in connecting and there may be devices with glitches. Our IT Department can help in many cases. You can request help here:

<https://agawam.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portals>

Providing internet connections in your homes is something we are currently unable to do. Here is a link to the updated information we received that can help.

<https://www.setda.org/priorities/equity-of-access/digital-equity/programs/>

As you may have heard, MCAS has been waived this school year and we are awaiting word from the Commissioner of Education on more specific details. Superintendents were told on a conference call yesterday that the Governor will be addressing next steps for schools in a press conference later this week or early next week. We anxiously await his direction.

Students, I hope you are working and connecting with your teachers. Your education is most important. You are our future and we need you to learn and prosper. Please continue your hard work and diligence in keeping up with what your teachers are sharing with you. We are all learning differently during this time. I ask you to continue taking safety precautions in keeping yourselves safe and those around you too.

Lastly, remember to take some time and separate from the news, and school work. Me time is a very important part of staying healthy.

Thank you and stay safe.

Steve Lemanski