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May 1, 2020

Dear Westford Students, Staff and Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and increasingly adapting to a new way of life. We have now completed nearly one month of remote learning, and I want to thank all of you for doing your part to keep learning alive and moving forward for our students.

As you know, Governor Baker made the decision to close schools for the remainder of the school year. He has also extended the stay-at-home advisory until May 18. In response to the school closure through June, the Commissioner of Education has released a new guidance document to local school systems with the following expectations: “School systems must refine our remote learning models by early May to prioritize connectedness, shift to teaching the content standards most critical for student success (Power Standards), build in time for enhancements, and make programming accessible for students and families.” This most recent guidance from the Commissioner requires new content to be delivered to students and expands beyond the first guidance document that suggested focusing on providing more depth to students on the curriculum that had already been taught. I am pleased to say that in March, Westford made the decision to not simply provide more depth to material already taught, but to continue forward through the remainder of the school year teaching new content, which is what the Commissioner is now requiring of school districts.

It is our intent to improve and build upon our current Remote Learning Plan. In order to do that Assistant Superintendent Clery has asked me to include the links below, by grade spans, to Remote Learning Surveys.

[Grades PK-2](#)   [Grades 3-5](#)   [Grades 6-8](#)   [Grades 9-12](#)

Please take a few moments to complete the survey(s) so that we may reflect on your experiences. Your valued input along with the excellent recommendations from our staff will help us strengthen our program.

Over the next few weeks, staff and students will be allowed to enter their respective school to retrieve any personal belongings. This will be done in observance of the May 18<sup>th</sup> stay-at-home advisory and will be conducted in a controlled manner. Your school principal will be providing information about this process.

In moving forward we will plan for the June closure of school and the re-opening in September. Whether we are back to the model we have known for years or continue on a remote basis, we will be ready for our students!

In closing, please know that there is not a day that passes without us missing the excited, smiling faces of students. Our collective resilience, care, and commitment will help us continue to serve the students well.

With warm regards,  
Everett V. Olsen, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools