June 1, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you doing well. I am writing to share some decisions we've made about Extended School Year (ESY) programming.

While still awaiting DESE guidance, it is clear to us that we will not be able to implement in-person services safely. Because in-person services will not be possible, we are shifting to offer ESY programming through distance learning. You will hear directly about your child's ESY offering during the week of June 12th. Between now and then, our special education leaders and educators will be working hard to compile a robust and effective service platform. We are also reaching out to families who have previously declined ESY services who may be interested in reconsidering this decision.

We do hope to be able to conduct some in person evaluations and assessments during the summer months and we are making the appropriate preparations to be able to do so. We are in the process of securing personal protective equipment, making facility accommodations, and working with evaluators and families. If your child was due an evaluation during the school closure and we are able to provide such services during the summer, your child's team leader will be in contact with you. This contact may not occur until later in June or in July as our current focus is on coordinating virtual ESY services so that they are effective for our students.

This decision presents a loss for all of us. I share your feelings and wish that we could all be together during the summer. As special education leaders, we remain committed to fostering a collegial connection to families as we recognize and honor our continued partnership in education.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's team leader.

Yours in service to education,

Elizabeth Fitzmaurice

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