

LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit Thirty

"Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way"

Steve Tucker, Superintendent of Schools
Amy N. Hinds, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Christine Blouin, Business Administrator

November 10, 2020

Good Day, Laconia School District Staff.

Though the weather does not resemble what we typically experience during the tenth week of school, Veterans Day is upon us as is the close of the first quarter. I hope that you are able to enjoy the glorious weather that we are experiencing and have a wonderful day off tomorrow. Our city and our schools have a long history of honoring men and women who have served our nation in the military. For all of you who have served, thank you for what you have done for our country. If you have a friend or relative who has served, please take a moment to express a "thank you" for their commitment to our great nation. Before you leave for your day off, here are a few updates:

Christmas Holiday Travel: As you know, state and school guidelines require anyone who travels outside of New England to quarantine for 14 days after they return. This week, your building leaders are engaging you in a conversation about holiday travel during Christmas Vacation so we can plan accordingly for staff, students and families.

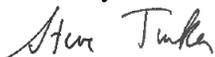
COVID-19 Update: We continue to monitor data to inform our decisions. The next School Board meeting is on Tuesday, November 17th. As I have done throughout this school year, I will continue to bring data for the Board to review. Throughout the year, we have had a few students and staff who have had close contact with people who have tested positive for COVID-19. We have been fortunate that none of these close contacts have occurred in our schools and many have taken place outside the city of Laconia. People who do have close contacts are notified by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and are required to quarantine with no option to test out. Though this seems extreme, this is another protective layer to promote health in our schools.

Task Force Update: We are finalizing our Portrait of a Graduate (POG) and Instruction task force rosters. The POG task force will delve into assessment to see where and how we are assessing our six (6) portrait skills with the goal of having an assessment system in the district that we are providing each student feedback on all six (6) Portrait skills. We will also use Thomas Guskey's *On Your Mark: Challenging the Conventions of Grading and Reporting* (2014) to inform our work. The Instruction task force will focus on learning about quality instruction in an online environment. Both task forces are two of the many ways that we are working on district, building, and individual goals. Thank you for all of you who are a part of these task forces.

Assessment Data: We are wrapping up state accountability testing to inform instruction. I am eager for us to analyze this data so we have a picture of our students' strengths and target areas for growth. Because we ended the 2019-20 year in remote learning, the data this fall is particularly important in understanding where our students are at.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your commitment to our children, families, and each other. As I tour our schools, I continue to be impressed with the work that you are doing with our students. In this most unusual school year, our greatest challenge is the uncertainty of the future. It is my hope that you can find joy in the work that you are doing with our students and continue to immerse yourselves in the moments that you are in. Our children are benefitting tremendously because of your work with them.

Sincerely,



Steve Tucker

Superintendent of the Laconia School District