

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

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August 14, 2020

Dear Kittery families...

It has been nearly three weeks since I last connected with you. I hope you didn't think I forgot about you! In reality, my team and I have been busy fielding your very thoughtful questions about our District Reopening Plan (approved by the Kittery School Committee on August 4th). Following that approval, you began receiving information from your student's principal via email about building-specific plans.

Here's what we are trying to do for you. While some schools are unloading 70 or 80-page plans, we have committed to rolling out information that is timely without choking you. I'm a parent of four school-age children; my wife and I do not have the capacity to receive, read, comprehend, and apply every single detail about the reopening of schools. Some do; I realize that! And you have reached out to us, and we've provided those comprehensive details.

For the rest of you, we are giving 'just right' information--clear, timely, and manageable--and it is working. You are responding to our immediate need for information, and we thank you! We hope our communication with you continues to be clear, timely, and manageable. If it's not, we know you will reach out to us.

Allow me to reiterate what your student's principals need to know by now:

- **Will your student be joining us onsite or in a fully remote experience beginning September 8th?**
- **For families of K-5 students, will you be needing after school support at the Kittery Community Center?**

That's all we need to know for now. Next week, I'll be reaching out to you to confirm your intentions for how your students will get to and from school in the fall. Keep an eye out for that communication!

In the meantime, I have determined that our **schools will reopen on September 8th under Status Yellow**, a prudent and reasonable decision as I weigh all the factors. Of course, that could change, given how fluid this situation has been from the very beginning. Any changes to Phase One's status will be communicated to you via School Messenger (the system I use to announce snow days). Until then, you should plan on following Status Yellow in the Reopening Plan from September 8th through November 6th.

Enjoy your weekend! I am proud to serve as your Superintendent of Schools and to support this community as it navigates through this and other challenges with patience, kindness, and respect.

Sincerely yours,



Eric F. Waddell
Superintendent of Schools