

Happy Friday, Forest Hills Staff Members and Families.

Today, I come to you with our first, ever edition of the Forest Hills Forecast.

This is a new, weekly-video series designed to bring you information that's up-to-date in a clear and transparent manner.

These videos will be coming to you weekly throughout the summer.

Today, I want to speak with you about three things: commencement, our thinking and plans for summer programming, and our initial-thinking at this point-in-time related to the new school year that will start in the fall.

In terms of commencement, we are committed to honoring our graduating seniors, the class of 2020.

We are looking at doing commencement differently this year: outdoors, late July, principals will be coming to all of our graduating seniors with more information about this important event in the days to come.

We want to do this in a way that is safe for everyone, but in a way that honors our graduating seniors.

In terms of our plans for the summer; typically, we've had a variety of summer activities, including summer day camps, enrichment activities, classes.

We will not be having in-person classes this summer, we will not be having enrichment activities.

We are looking at summer child care, and that would also look differently, with students in smaller groups separated out to more schools.

Again, we're working on the final details at this and we just received more guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, and so we'll have more information coming to you in the short days ahead.

And finally, as we think about our planning for the fall in the new school year.

There are many, many unknowns right now related to the virus, related to its prevalence, related to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, and our own state and local health officials.

And also, unknowns related to funding for schools.

Because of all these unknown variables, we are developing a range of contingency plans. Our desire is to have students back into our schools as much as possible, and in a normal schedule if possible.

We're working on that contingency plan.

But we also realize that some students and some families may want, or even need, another option.

So, we're working on a range of options as well.

As we go throughout the summer, you'll hear more details about this range of options, these contingency plans, and we will also be looking for your feedback as we can use that in our planning as well.

So, expect to hear more about this process several times as we go throughout the summer and through these weekly videos in the Forest Hills Forecast.

Also, I want to share with you a couple of frequently asked questions.

One question is, when can I get my child's belongings?

We've got student, individual belongings throughout all 18 of our schools.

And our principals will be making arrangements, school-by-school, in a way that gives information for each specific family, whether it's by last name or grade level.

That information will be coming to you and we anticipate you being able to pick up those belongings the last week in June.

And finally, we've had questions about our food-distribution program.

We are pleased to announce that it will continue all the way through the month of June.

We don't have any information yet from the federal government about July and August; and as soon as we do, we'll get that information to you.

In the meantime, I hope you have a great Memorial holiday weekend.

Thanks to all of those who have served our country, and all of those who are serving now in so many ways.

Thanks for all you're doing for friends and family, and neighbors.

Hang in there, we will get through this together.

Take care.