

Transcript

Hello Forest Hills families and staff members.

I'm coming to you here from a wonderful kindergarten classroom at Orchard View Elementary.

And I know this is a place where students

and parents and staff members want to have children come back to as soon as possible.

And that's what we're working on the purpose of these weekly videos,

and I will be coming to you weekly between now

and the beginning of the school year, is to provide information, to provide clarity

and to provide a transparent window.

on our best thinking of the myriad of issues that we are working through to get students back to these places here right now.

It's as though we're living in a world that is filled with uncertainty.

In fact, if we had a bucket, our bucket would be overflowing with uncertainty

and I know that can be an unsettling feeling to be surrounded

with so much uncertainty, and I think

what we really crave is something that is clear, something that is certain, something that

won't be changing perhaps every other week on such a frequent basis.

And so what we want to do is to move things that are uncertain into this bucket of certainty,

and that's what we'll try to do as we communicate going forward in the weeks ahead.

We know that part of that process is taking things that aren't yet certain, that are uncertain, and evaluating a range of options.

So there's almost a middle bucket here where we look at the start of the school year

and we think about how can we do this in a way that makes sure all of our students

and staff members and families are safe, where we're

maximizing learning, that we're providing the ability

for parents who need to go to work to go to work.

So that really involves a range of options

and a range of new thinking,

and what we want to do through these videos is to provide you with a window.

in on that thinking so before something is made with a final decision.

we can say we are looking at plans 1, 2, and 3, and here's our thinking around those plans,

and here's why and here's

what would cause us to use plan one

or here are circumstances that may develop over the summer that we need to use plan two, or here's something that develops late in the game where we need to use plan 3 for instance.

So we want to provide you with a window on those interim steps

as we are all moving decisions from an uncertain bucket in an

uncertain world to a world that is clear

and one that we can count on going forward.

I know that during this time of remote learning at home.

this is not the ideal situation. We want all of our students to be back in a classroom

such as this, but during this time,

I must say, that I am so grateful

for our parents for loved ones

for family members that are helping our students all across the district navigate this new space.

It's not easy. It takes a toll. I get that trying to do my own work from home

when my children also need guidance with their own learning from time to time. That's not easy.

And then, when they finish their learning

and I need to get to my work I'm available to them and that's can be a hard thing to juggle.

I understand for all of us.

And just this this toll of being confined to our homes has its own challenges.

So I'm grateful for everyone reaching out to check in on friends

and loved ones and neighbors as we go through this. Continue to do that.

That makes such a difference,

and hopefully as we come into some Michigan spring weather, that additional sunshine

and warmth puts a spring in everyone's step.

Well in the weeks ahead coming to you, you can expect to hear more about how will wrap up this current school year, our decisions around things like commencement that we're still working on, and want to be able to provide that for our seniors, going forward our decisions around what we need to do to return all the personal belongings that we have in all of our schools throughout the district.

So information on that will be coming very soon. Also we'll want to provide you with an update about our plans for the summer, where we can provide additional opportunities for learning and for supports of students, and supporting our families as we go forward.

And again, we will come to you throughout these weekly videos with our best thinking about the range of options that were looking at for the start of the school year with the goal of getting students back to these spaces

as soon as possible. In the meantime, thank you for all that you're continuing to do.

Thank you for your support of one another, for the support of your teachers.

Thank you for the support of all of our students and our community as a whole.

Best wishes to you.

Take care.