

Paul F. Doyon Memorial School
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Dear Families,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer as much as you can and staying healthy. I cannot believe that it has been one month since the last day of school. As you are aware there is still much uncertainty as far as the start of the upcoming school year but we are all working hard to do what is best for our students, staff, families, and community.

A few families have asked why I have not sent out the Placement letters yet so I would like to explain why. I purposely decided to hold off for good reason. All students have been assigned to their new grade level teacher and classroom for the upcoming school. Due to the uncertainty of how we might be returning, there is a possibility students on the class lists and/or the teacher may change. I do not want to disappoint the children one way or another. My hope is that DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) and the Governor will have more information about the re-opening of schools soon. My plan is to send the Placement letters out the week of August 10th.

I am happy to share we have hired our new 5th grade teacher. Her name is Ms. Brooke Eager. Brooke received her Bachelor's degree from Salem State University and has been a teaching assistant at Doyon for three years. We are thrilled to have her as part of our 5th grade team.

As stated in Dr. Blake previous emails, DESE has asked all districts to submit three re-entry plans: in-person, remote learning, and a hybrid approach.

There are various groups meetings to address these different plans. The Facilities Working Group of the School Committee consisting of School Committee members, Dr. Blake and principals/assistant principals has been meeting for the past month and has assessed the needs of the buildings, instructional support and academics, transportation, facilities management and operations. Through this working group, we seek to identify key questions we have for any reopening plan and potential solutions.

A Paine grant committee consisting of eight professional staff members, and the technology director, and led by Dr. Blake and Tracy Wagner, Director of Teaching and Learning, are charged with researching exemplary models of remote and hybrid learning.

Measurements of classrooms and inventory of furniture has been completed in all four buildings to see if we can meet the three foot social distancing that DESE is suggesting.

On Wednesday, Dr. Blake sent out a survey to all families and staff to gather input as we continue to create IPS plans for the three possible scenarios.

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Next steps for Doyon:

- I will be meeting with our School Council and FRIES officers to gather input and suggestions that addresses the specific values and needs of our Doyon students, staff and families. We will discuss how best to gather and share the most-to-date information with the broader Doyon Community.
- I will plan to send out the Doyon newsletter more regularly when and if I have new information to share that is specific to Doyon.
- I will start hosting some parent/guardian ZOOM or in-person social distancing outdoor meetings at Doyon in the next few weeks.
- Teachers and I have been in contact continuously during the past month. I will now start to meet more regularly with teachers and staff to address the academic and social emotional needs of our students for the upcoming school year. We will continue to assess the remote learning successes and concerns, and our communication with families from this past spring.
- Many teachers are participating in Professional Development opportunities with their Winthrop, MS, and HS colleagues which I will share more about in my next newsletter.
- Winthrop and Doyon, together have worked on running a small summer program located at Winthrop this summer. This has given us the opportunity with staff from both buildings to set protocols and procedures into place, refine practices, and anticipate how they could work if and when our in-person reopening occurs. Materials needed to support learning are being ordered such as tents (for outdoor learning), personalized equipment (in many forms) and additional cleaning supplies.

I recognize that it is difficult not having the answers to your many questions. Together, as a school, district, and state, we are working to provide the best and safest education possible for our students. Thank you for your encouragement and support during this time. We need to remember, we are still in a pandemic and need to continue to take it seriously for the safety and well-being of all of us. If you questions and/or suggestions specific to Doyon, please reach out to me by phone and/or email. I am always available.

If you have not yet completed the survey Dr. Blake sent out earlier this week, I encourage you to click on the link at this time. <https://forms.gle/w6HTZvsEEw8HgMEy9>. If you have difficulty completing the survey for any reason, please send an email to: 2020reopen@ipsk12.net.

Please tell your children that they are missed. Take care and be well.

Sheila

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