



Ipswich Public Schools

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Good evening,

This is Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools for the Ipswich Public Schools. I want to provide you with updated information regarding our school closure due to the COVID-19 Outbreak. I hope that this message finds you all healthy and safe.

Last night, the School Committee voted to essentially rescind the April vacation for next week and instead, have teachers and students work Tuesday thru Friday in the remote learning environment. Monday is still considered a holiday. In cancelling the April vacation, the last day of school will be moved back to June 17, 2020, four days earlier than scheduled. This change in the school calendar seemed to make the most sense given our current situation.

Last week, the Governor and Commissioner determined that the MCAS testing for this year is cancelled. We are awaiting guidance on the Competency Determination for Seniors who still need to meet that criteria.

I would like to remind everyone that the Remote Learning website is up and running. Students should be actively engaged with their teachers at this point. Here is the website address:

<https://sites.google.com/ipsk12.net/ipswich-public-schools/home?authuser=0>. I would like to draw particular attention to the technology tab on the website. Clicking it will take you to a page with Frequently Asked Questions, tutorials on the various platforms being used, and the Technology Use disclaimer. Please take a few minutes to review these.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our food service department and the staff helping to prepare and deliver breakfast and lunch meals Monday thru Friday to select locations in town. Remember, the meals are for any students who need a meal, not just those eligible for free and reduced lunch. The meal delivery locations and times are:

Rosewood (11:30-12:30)

Winthrop School (11:30-12:30)

Agawam Village (11:30-12:15)

Powderhouse Village (12:15-12:30)

I anticipate hearing either at the end of this week or the beginning of next week as to the date our schools will reopen. While we are scheduled to reopen on May 4, I anticipate that the Governor will extend that date to later in May. As soon as I have additional information, I will share it with you.

Thank you and be well. Good night.

Brian J. Blake
Superintendent of Schools