

Kelly M. Lyman
Superintendent

June 19, 2020

Dear Mansfield Families,

When I first communicated with you in mid-March about the need to close our schools, it was not with the expectation that we would remain apart for the remainder of the year. Even when we asked you to partner with us for School at Home, it was with the hope that this would occur for only a few weeks, not months. It has been a challenging time and yet, there have been many bright spots as well.

The outpouring of appreciation from our community has not only lifted the spirits of school staff but once again, proven that in Mansfield, education is a top priority. Your recognition of the efforts of school staff have meant a great deal. You let us know what was working and what was needed, and we hope we responded in ways that made School at Home a little easier for us all. The parades, end of year celebrations, and promotion programs provided us an opportunity to physically see and connect with each other. Together, we certainly did manage to get through this time in the best way possible.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you this summer. A variety of summer learning programs and a virtual summer camp have been planned. If you missed the information sent about these programs, log onto our School at Home page for details about school and community summer programs. <https://www.mansfieldct.gov/2012/Mansfield-Schools-COVID-19-Information-R>. We learned recently that we will be allowed to continue our food services program into the summer. A communication about the that program was sent to you earlier today. You may have also noticed that our playgrounds have reopened!

Of course, the biggest question we all are asking is, "What about next fall?" There is no simple answer. How and when we all return to school will be dependent on the course this virus takes and the effect of continued good practices from us all. The governor has expressed his plan to have everyone back in school, but the details are still being developed. The latest information we have suggests that local public health conditions will dictate school opening decisions.

We are also receiving lots of information about how to maintain a safe environment in our schools and we have begun to both prepare our buildings and modify many operating procedures. Our reopening team comprised of teachers, administrators, parents, and Board of Education members continues to meet and has identified several key issues to be addressed. Among them are teaching and learning practices, health and wellness issues, emotional supports, and the need to continue our work on equity and becoming an anti-racist district. There will be much more to share in the coming weeks so expect several communications from us this summer.

For now, I wish you all relaxing days ahead and continued good health.

Sincerely,



Kelly M. Lyman