July 7, 2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to provide an update on the COVID-19 pandemic as it pertains to the reopening of schools in Maine.

As of today, July 7, 2020, Maine schools are waiting to receive information pertaining to how schools may open in the Fall. The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) has stated on several occasions that they will decide when it is safe for schools to reopen. With that said, once that decision is made, local schools will need to implement the requirements set forth by the MDOE and the MECDC. There are many sources saying that this decision will most likely be done on a regional basis, not the entire state. Regardless of what the MDOE makes for a final decision, they have asked Maine schools to plan for several different scenarios for the fall. Forest Hills School is currently developing these plans. To assist us in the planning, we will be asking families to complete a brief survey which will enable us to gain a better understanding of your thoughts and feelings as they pertain to the reopening of our school in the fall. The Forest Hills survey will be emailed early next week, paper copies are available upon request.

Yesterday, July 6, 2020, the MDOE released surveys to gather information county by county as they prepare to release guidance to local school districts. I encourage you to follow the link contained within this letter to complete the state level survey. The survey is anonymous and will assist the state in gaining a better understanding of the thoughts and feelings of families across the state. Each county and region are at very different places with the COVID-19 pandemic and it is important to have a wide representation of families. The state surveys are available until July 12, 2020, so I encourage you to complete it as soon as possible, if you wish to provide your feedback to the state. The survey can be found at https://www.main.gov/doe/fall2020survey.

As more information becomes available, I will be certain to update you on the developments as they pertain to Forest Hills and the reopening of school in the fall. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please feel free to call the school or email me at thad.lacasse@sad12.com.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thad A. Lacasse
Superintendent/Principal