

April 30, 2020

Dear Milton Public Schools Parents/Guardians,

On Tuesday, April 21, 2020 Governor Baker announced that schools in the Commonwealth would be closed through the end of this school year. In response to that announcement, Commissioner Riley issued updated guidance on April 24, 2020- [Strengthening Our Remote Learning Experience](#). This document builds on previous guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- *March 26, 2020 Remote Learning Recommendations During the COVID-19 School Closures*.

In particular, *Strengthening Our Remote Learning Experience (MA DESE 04/24/20)* focuses on two areas:

- Further defining the recommended elements of a quality remote learning program, including a focus on teaching the content standards most critical for student success in the next grade level.
- Encouraging districts to move all students towards successful engagement in remote learning, with a focus on addressing fundamental needs.

As companions to this document, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education published [MA DESE Prerequisite Content Standards: Elementary Grades K-5](#) and [MA DESE Prerequisite Content Standards: Secondary Grades \(6-12\)](#).

Since the release of this new guidance, Milton Public Schools' teachers, curriculum leaders, and principals have been taking stock in the degree to which the MA DESE Prerequisite Content Standards have been addressed this school year, discussing the implications for the learning opportunities students currently have at home, and further focusing professional development in order to support educators as they address new content and

ensure that students are successfully engaged with this content at home.

Moving forward, your child will likely experience an expansion of “teacher facing” online opportunities. It is possible that this instructional teacher facing time will be pre-recorded as we have found that for many reasons this is optimal for student engagement. In addition, you will see pre-scheduled formal opportunities such as “office hours” or “study halls” so that your child has live access to his/her teacher(s) on a regular basis.

Finally, teachers and curriculum leaders are working collaboratively to refine the ways in which they determine a child’s success in meeting prerequisite content standards and to expand the manner in which they provide additional support to students who do not meet them. Your principal will continue to communicate with families at each grade level regarding grading. We thank you for your partnership during the previous and now extended school closure. Your feedback about what is working well for you and your child as well as what might be an opportunity for growth has been invaluable to us. If you have specific questions about your child’s work or progress on work, we encourage you to reach out to your child’s teacher. If you have other questions, please contact your child’s principal. As a reminder, we have many additional supports and resources available to you and your family. Please let us know how we can help you. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and shifting our work in order to best meet the needs of our students.

Be well and be safe,

Mary C. Gormley, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Karen Spaulding, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Glenn Pavlicek, Assistant Superintendent