



The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
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Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
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Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

April 21, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

As you may have already heard, this afternoon Governor Baker announced that school buildings across the Commonwealth will remain closed through the end of the school year.

The Governor's decision was not unexpected and it's clearly the best course of action to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. Yet, the finality of this decision likely brings more than just a twinge of sadness. Our students and teachers will not have the opportunity to reconvene to share important milestones in the way they expect to. We all lament these missed opportunities - field trips, award banquets, sports games, 8th grade and high school graduations, plays and shows, breakfast shares and capstone presentations - but most of all we will miss the time spent in classrooms learning and growing *together*.

However, school does remain open and Brookline will continue to provide [remote learning opportunities](#) for all of our students. In anticipation of this decision our educators, staff, and school leaders have been continuing to strengthen our remote learning approach. At PK-8 we are now further defining common learning priorities at each grade level so that teachers, students, and families will know what students are expected to learn by the end of the year. We also will continue to respond to the feedback we've heard about streamlining communication, increasing coordination, and the need to be sure our staff and students can maintain this workload through the end of the school year. We expect to share the newest updates with our educators tomorrow so they have time to understand these changes before they implement them. Look for further updates and details for families by the end of this week.

We will also be developing plans to provide limited, and safe, opportunities to retrieve items that may have been left behind in your school. We will not allow access until we are further along into May, past the current surge of infections in Massachusetts, and after the Department of Public Health assures that we can do so safely. We ask for your patience as we develop this plan.

I continue to send my best wishes to you and your loved ones for continued good health.

Sincerely,

Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

Remember, for the latest information on the Town of Brookline's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please click [here](#).