

ERVING SCHOOL UNION #28

ERVING, LEVERETT, NEW SALEM, WENDELL, SHUTESBURY

JENNIFER J CULKEEN
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

PRUDENCE MARSH, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

BRUCE C. TURNER
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

18 PLEASANT STREET
ERVING, MA 01344
413 423-3337
FAX 413 423-3236
www.union28.org

April 7, 2020

Dear Union #28 Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I want to extend my utmost appreciation for all you are doing to support learning at home. Please know that all staff in Union #28 schools thank you for doing what you are doing during these complex and unusual times!

“Children are the priority. Change is the reality. Collaboration is the strategy.”

(Judith Billings, Washington State superintendent)

During this period of school closure, the schools will be providing students with remote learning opportunities, which may include analog materials, telephone calls, video conferencing, pre-recorded lessons, and other online services. Students are expected to participate in these services if possible. Please reach out to us as soon as possible if you anticipate or become aware of any issues with your child accessing the remote learning opportunities provided by the schools.

In accordance with state and federal laws, including the Massachusetts Wiretapping Act and FERPA, parents and students must refrain from recording any and all remote lessons. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis due to special circumstances, and only with the consent of everyone involved in the lesson. In addition, while parents/guardians are permitted to observe online instruction in a non-disruptive manner, to the extent that remote learning opportunities provide access to confidential student information, all participants agree, by participating in this remote learning opportunity, to refrain from disseminating any confidential student information about other student participants with any and all third parties. By participating in the remote learning opportunities, consent to this request is hereby provided.

Similarly, we ask everyone in our school communities to recognize that video conferences and other online services will be taking place in the homes of the educators and students who participate in the calls, and to be mindful of everyone’s right to privacy. To that end, we remind our students to dress appropriately and choose an appropriate location in their home from which to participate in any and all remote learning opportunities, particularly those with a video component. Families should take all precautions to safeguard personal or private information that they do not wish to be disclosed.

Students will be expected to behave in accordance with school rules of conduct while participating in remote instruction. Cyber-bullying, harassment, discrimination, and abuse of the remote learning process will not be tolerated and may result in suspension from remote learning, as well as additional consequences when school resumes. The District also encourages its staff and students alike to limit disruptions to remote lessons to the extent feasible (while also recognizing that sometimes pets, small children, and technical difficulties cannot be prevented from disrupting a lesson that happens at home).

If you decline to have your child participate in online instruction, you can request assistance with obtaining analog materials for you to use with your child.

By accessing these remote learning services, the schools and Union #28 recognize that you and your child consent to access online instruction and agree to fully comply with the requirements of this letter.

We appreciate your time and attention to this notice.
Be well and stay safe.

Best,



Jennifer J Culkeen
Superintendent
Erving School Union #28