



Arthur Unobskey, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
508.358-3763

Parry Graham, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
508.358.3772

Richard Whitehead, M.Ed.
Director of Student
Services
508.358.3756

Susan Bottan, MBA
Director of Finance &
Operations
508.358.3750

Tony Laing, Ph.D.
METCO Director
508.358.3754

Leisha F. Simon, M.Ed.
Director of Technology &
Digital Learning
508.358.3714

June 22nd 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Caregivers

I have worked in special education for thirty two years and nothing has tested our experience or challenged our abilities like the last few months, nothing. Our success has everything to do with you, our special education staff and your children. We have communicated in new ways, quickly developed new skills and found depths of resiliency and partnership that we never knew we had.

You have all contributed to our work in ways that we did not consider until school closed. I thank you for your contribution and your partnership. It was, is and will be vitally important to our continued efforts.

I have always looked for the silver linings in my work and I genuinely believe in special education as the most positive of educational forces. Take a look at an IEP, there is nothing negative in that document. It talks about vision, goals, achievement, strength and most importantly a team that defends all of these elements. I think that we have become stronger teams, stronger advocates and more understanding of our unique roles during this closure. I am optimistic that we will continue these partnerships as we move forward together.

The special education staff have worked incredibly hard since March, finding innovative ways to connect and teach. At the same time they have been caring for their own children and their education in much the same way as you have. Thank you for recognizing this and for taking the time to individually connect with them to say thank you.

I plan on releasing detailed information about student services in Wayland over the course of the summer. It will be emailed directly to you and will be posted on the school district website. Please check regularly to see what is going on. Karen and I will be back in the office on a part time basis as of June 25th. Please call us or email me if you are looking for help, information or you just want to check in.

In the absence of a fully formed plan, what do we know about special education services next year in Wayland?

- We want to see your students back in school as much as is safely possible
- Service delivery will be 'back to normal' as much as possible. We want to work with your student in person to deliver all their service delivery minutes
- We will provide a safe and stable environment for special education services whether they be in class, in small groups or on an individual basis
- We have all learned how important clear communication is during the

months of closure and this needs to continue. We will respond to you within 24 hours of you contacting us and we ask that you do the same in return

- Virtual IEP meetings will continue for the foreseeable future. Our meeting spaces are small and not conducive to social distancing. Virtual meetings are the safe and responsible way to complete this task
- We are looking into safe ways to test students that will include upgraded technology, appropriate protective equipment and the use of spaces where students will be comfortable working with their evaluator

There will be much more to come throughout the summer and I ask for your continued patience as we work together to solve problems old and new. We hope to see your children, and you, in person as soon as we are safely able to do so.

'We Will Get By, We Will Survive'
'Touch of Grey' Garcia & Hunter

My best wishes and my sincere thanks to all of you.

Richard Whitehead

Richard Whitehead M.Ed
Director of Student Services
Wayland Public Schools

Email: richard_whitehead@Wayland.K12.MA.US
Phone: 508-358-3757