

Dear Parents/Guardians/Staff,

Congratulations, it is the last day of school, and we made it! I know that this last part of the year was challenging for everyone as we navigated the pandemic and its impact on careers, childcare, education, and the overall safety of our families. I could not be more proud of the faculty, staff, parents and guardians in our community for helping our students finish out the year strong. As the school year comes to an end, I do want to provide a brief update on both our planning for the fall and the work of our district's Equity Council.

I want to start by thanking all of you for your hard work and commitment to distance learning over the past three months. There are not enough words to express my gratitude for everything you have done on a day-to-day basis since March 16th. Our world changed drastically that day, and you stepped up to instruct our students and assist with their learning through the remainder of the year. This was no small feat, and your dedication to teaching our children deserves praise.

Although we do not yet know what the fall holds for us, the Return to Simsbury Schools Task Force and the Reopen Simsbury Schools Teaching & Learning Team are working to prepare as best we can. At last Tuesday evening's Board of Education (BOE) meeting, updates on the work of these task forces were shared. In order to understand a little more about the membership and the structure of these teams, I urge you to view the [slides](#) that were presented, as well as the [televised meeting](#). We will be updating you as more specific guidance comes forward from the State Department of Education and the governor in the next few weeks. We have decided on a communication plan that involves a sharing of the information that is available every two weeks. As such, please know that we have identified the following dates for district communications about reopening: July 1, July 15, July 29, and August 12.

On June 4th, at its final meeting of the school year, the Equity Council discussed our nation's landscape of racial unrest and the continued importance and relevance of our work here in Simsbury. The Equity Council has developed a powerful statement defining equity for the Simsbury Public Schools, and the document further delineates a set of core beliefs and stances to assist the BOE with future decisions on policies and practices that impact our school community. This statement will be reviewed by the Board of Education on June 23, 2020.

The Equity Council is committed to meeting this summer to further define the next steps in our district's journey for equity. A webpage will be developed to keep the public apprised of our work. We look forward to communicating those outcomes and keeping you apprised of developments with and for all students of the Simsbury Public Schools.

I hope everyone has a well deserved break this summer, and that you and your family have a summer full of wonderful memories.

Stay well,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools