

Dear Needham Public Schools Families:

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy. Allow me to share a few brief updates:

**April Vacation Cancelled:** Last evening, the School Committee voted to amend the current [2019-20 school calendar](#) and cancel April vacation originally scheduled for April 21-24. The School Committee agreed with my recommendation that we continue to provide instruction for all students through our [Remote Learning Plan](#). We will also continue providing [meals for students in need](#) during this week. The continuity of instruction and vital services is important, and the inability of families to travel make this an appropriate move in this unusual circumstance. Monday, April 20th is Patriots' Day, and the district will observe this holiday and not hold classes. The School Committee also voted to have the last day of school be Friday, June 19th. Please check out the district's website to view calendar information: [NPS Calendar Information](#).

**Friday, April 10th is Good Friday:** A reminder that this Friday, April 10th, is Good Friday and the district will not hold classes on that day.

**Meals for Needham and Boston Students:** Just since last week, the NPS Nutrition Services Department has provided over 2,400 meals for over 400 students. If a child in your family or a child you know in Needham requires breakfast and lunch, please check out information about [Meals for Needham Children](#). Enrollment in the NPS is not required and there is no paperwork needed. For families in Boston, please check out the meal information and other services available in Boston through [METCO, Inc.](#)

**School Committee Open House April 18<sup>th</sup>:** The School Committee will host a virtual Open House from 9 until 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18th to provide an opportunity for parents and community members to meet and speak informally with their School Committee representatives. An invitation to join the open house virtually will be forwarded next week. Please join us!

**Twitter Updates:** I strongly encourage families or individuals to sign up for the [Superintendent's Twitter](#) account to receive timely updates, information, and messages that are especially important at this time. It's easy to do, and you can receive quick and easy access to NPS news.

Please continue to stay well and, as always, reach out to me with questions, comments, or concerns at 781.455.0400, x11203 or [dan\\_gutekanst@needham.k12.ma.us](mailto:dan_gutekanst@needham.k12.ma.us)

Finally, Happy Passover and Easter to our families celebrating the holidays! Given the extraordinary times, I know I will be disappointed not to be able to gather with my family for Easter dinner. Nonetheless, I hope we can all enjoy the gift of smaller family gatherings and, especially, continued health in the days and weeks ahead.

Respectfully,

Dan Gutekanst  
Superintendent of Schools