June 3, 2020

Dear Sachem Elementary Families,

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of the district’s third trimester grading model and options we have organized for 5th Grade Moving Up ceremonies due to closure orders. We continue to appreciate the support we receive from our community during these challenging times we must make decisions in. Our student’s well-being is at the heart of such unprecedented planning.

First, please note that elementary report cards will be distributed at the end of the academic year exhibiting grades acquired in the first and second trimesters with the third trimester reflecting pass or not applicable in ELA, Math and Special Areas (Art, Music, Physical Education) as well as pertaining comments. All other fields on the report card will denote not applicable. This model was developed to ensure students are not penalized academically due to the closure during this crisis.

Next, should we be allowed, we have planned to provide an “in-person” 5th Grade Moving Up ceremony, weather permitting. The details for these ceremonies are below:

- Each elementary school will host their 5th grade class on the appointed high school football field incorporating social distancing guidelines.
- The approximate dates for our ceremonies are 6/16-6/18. Each building will be assigned a date.
- The ceremonies will be held at either 5:00 pm or 7:30 pm
- Each student will be allowed to bring two guests and arrive in one car.
- Each group of three individuals per family, will be seated in marked areas together, on the field with appropriate spacing.
- You will receive your assigned ceremony date, time and full details from your principal.

While we hope to have “in-person” moving up ceremonies, we must abide by the guidelines put forth by the Governor’s office. If we are not permitted to carry out our plans, we will alternatively have a parade style graduation at each building with a virtual video presentation shared thereafter. Communication to the same will be shared.

Last, please know that we place every student and the entire Sachem Community at the forefront of our decision making. We know that decisions during these times cannot make everyone happy, but we strive to offer the best possible scenarios we can within the closure guidelines we continue to receive. We will work to keep you abreast of updates and planning efforts in the coming months. Thank you for your ongoing patience.

Sincerely,
Erin M. Hynes