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August 10, 2020

Dear Swift River Families,

We hope this email finds you all healthy and that you have been able to enjoy the outdoors this summer!

On August 6th, the Swift River School Committee approved a plan for our fall return to school. Swift River School students will begin school on Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 to participate in 8 weeks of remote learning. The School Committee will meet before the week of November 9th, 2020 to determine if it is safe for students to return to school. If the School Committee determines it is not safe for us to return to in-person learning, remote learning will continue. However, if the School Committee determines that it is safe, students would then return to an in-school model (they would also vote on which model to implement at that time). If you were unable to attend Thursday’s meeting and would like to view it, you can find it on our website under the School Committee Tab, Minutes, 2020 or by clicking here: [School Committee Meeting, August 6, 2020](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_O3FGs7DRnwbuGSMmeDO0Mb88M7ntaKi/view).

Now that we have a better sense of what our Fall model will look like, we can finally spend the time required to really train and plan. The Leadership Team is in the initial stages of collaborating on a letter and a packet of information with additional details to explain what to expect for next year. This round of remote learning will be completely different than what we experienced in the spring. All students will receive a device from school. Students will virtually attend video classes with their teachers as well as work with printed materials (that we will provide), complete projects, and work on notebooks. Students will still have specials and get an opportunity to connect daily as a classroom community. The remote learning plan will be highly-organized, predictable, and accessible. Families and students will receive training on devices and learning platforms. Staff will be available to assist students and families with questions and concerns, extra help and tutoring.

Preschool will be limited to just the 4-year-old program this school year, and will also be remote for the first 8 weeks. If a hybrid plan is put in place, Preschool will then have a half-day program that will dismiss before lunch. More information on Preschool will be available soon.

We are fully aware that this will be difficult, and may present many potential complications. These decisions were not easy, but were made with the health and safety of our Swift River students, staff, and community as a top priority. We understand that this will pose a hardship for many families and that there are still many concerns and unanswered questions. We promise to continue to communicate and to offer more Town Hall sessions in the coming weeks. Our goal is to ensure a stellar remote experience for these first 8 weeks.

More information will follow soon.

Best,

Kelley Sullivan, Principal and Jen Culkeen, Superintendent

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