



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

785 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Tel: (860) 923-9581
Fax: (860) 923-9638

June 17, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

Today is the final school day of the 19/20 school year. A wonderful year with an extraordinary finish, one I am sure none of us will forget!

In an abrupt shift, students and their families were challenged from being educated in a typical school environment to virtual learning. On behalf of the administrators, faculty, and staff of Thompson Public Schools, we thank you for your patience, support, and words of encouragement as we scrambled to provide students with technology equipment and a new way to access the curriculum from home.

Despite the many challenges, educators of Thompson Public Schools continued to work collaboratively with each other to develop lessons and special activities that could be reached by our students online. The members of the Board of Education and I are eternally grateful to the countless hours that our directors, administrators, teachers, support providers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, technology, and security teams devoted to students and their families over the last few months. It is amazing what can be accomplished when we all work together.

In addition to providing academic programs, the district had to ensure that the basic nutritional needs of our students were also met. A special thank you is extended to our cafeteria workers, custodians, and security team for delivering meals daily to four distribution sites as well as delivering breakfast and lunches to families who were homebound. They are Thompson Public Schools front line workers who went above and beyond to feed our students. A sincere thank you to all of these wonderful women and men.

When we all needed our spirits lifted, Thompson firefighters and emergency personnel came to our rescue by joining our teacher and graduation parades driving trucks and sounding sirens and horns to help everyone celebrate our students and schools. We are all so touched by this outpouring of support from every fire department.

Community organizations also had a hand in seeing us through this health emergency. A special shout out to Amy St. Onge, Thompson First Selectman, and the team at Thompson town hall, Anne Miller and her case workers at TEEG, Jill St. Cyr and the donors from It Start's at Home, Charlene Langlois and her staff at Our Father's Table, Rachel Johnston for sponsoring Tiger Talk, Clarus Studio's, Sunset Nurseries, and WINY. Thank you for all that you have contributed during our school closure.

It was impressive to also see the many students, parents, and faculty who attended town meetings, signed petitions, and wrote letters to the Board of Finance to advocate for the BOE FY 21 budget. I urge you all to continue to be present at meetings and let your opinions be heard.

So, on this final day of school, it is clear that we have a lot to be proud of and many people to thank for getting us through the memorable last three months.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer of 2020! Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Melinda A. Smith

Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
