

Forest Hills Forecast Transcript

August 28, 2020

Hello Forest Hills families and staff members and welcome to the 13th edition of the Forest Hills Forecast. We are just days away from kicking off the 2020-21 school year, and we couldn't be more excited and we hope you are too. Today, I want to talk with you about three things, about working together, growing together, and succeeding together.

I want to thank everyone, all of our parents and families, our extended families, our community, certainly our staff members, and so importantly our teachers for all the work everyone has been doing to prepare for this school year. As we work together, there's nothing we can't accomplish and I appreciate your patience so very much as we've been adapting so many things in this big system so that we can bring great learning to you wherever you may be, and do that in a way that keeps everyone safe and healthy, so I appreciate everyone's support and that collaboration. When we work together, there's nothing we cannot accomplish and achieve. So, thank you.

Every school year's about the same thing. It's about growth. It's about growth for our students and we're growing and learning and so many new ways and we're excited to kick off a new year. Every school year is about learning new things and sometimes when we learn new things we can feel a little bit anxious that's normal. And sometimes it takes a several attempts to really get it to where it clicks for us, and that will be no different this year. So I want to thank you in advance for all your support and encouragement of your own children and in their learning. And I want to remind everyone that our kids take their emotional cues from the important adults in their world, whether it's their teacher or the folks at home, they look to us for those emotional cues that not only everything's going to be okay, but that we support you and that you can do this. Even though we're adapting in new ways, we're wearing face coverings, we're socially distancing, all of these new concepts, kids can adapt. And when they hear our confidence and support of that, they'll do great as well.

Another aspect of growth is sometimes we don't get it right the first time. So, we need a little bit of grace, a little bit of patience. Our teachers are great with that. They do it every day. Sometimes we can look at a stumble as a failure. Well in our schools, we like to think of failure and turn it a little bit upside down. And think of that word "fail"...f-a-i-l and turn it into an acronym

that stands for: First Attempt In Learning. And we will all have first attempts in learning this year and we will all do it together. So we will all grow together in so many different ways.

And that leads me to my last point and that is succeeding together. You know, in the face of this pandemic, one of the things that we've learned is we can't just rely on a small group of people to solve this tremendous challenge for us. We all have a part to play. In fact, we all have individual responsibility regardless of our age that we can bring to this and when we all do our part, we will all succeed together.

You know as we look around the state and look around the nation, we see some areas and even in our higher education institutions where students are fine as they're in the school space. It's when we're outside of the school space that sometimes we can sort of relax a little bit and maybe inadvertently let our guard down. So let's just keep doing the great work we've been doing as a community, as a region, to keep everyone safe and healthy. We all have a role to play and we all have individual responsibility that when we bring it to bear, we will all succeed together.

So, I hope you have a wonderful school year for 2020-2021. It'll be a memorable school year, and I want it to be a memorable school year because it's going to be the best year ever for your kids and for your family. Thanks for all you do. Thanks for all your support, and thanks for working together, growing together and we will all succeed together. I hope you have a great weekend and a great school year.