

FHPS Video Transcript, Forest Hills Forecast, June 12, 2020

Hello Forest Hills families and staff members. Thanks for tuning into the fourth edition of the Forest Hills Forecast. In today's edition of the Forecast, I'd like to talk about three things: celebration and gratitude is the first thing; the second thing is a chance for our athletes and students to get outdoors on our sites; and the third item is a conversation I had with a neighbor.

So the first item: celebration and gratitude. We have closed the books on another school year, but this is perhaps is a school year like none other. But through it all, we are so grateful to so many different groups. Today, I'm here in the Central High School cafeteria and our outstanding food service workers and support staff have been coming together and preparing meals. We're up over a hundred and fifty thousand meals that these folks have provided to our community, we're so very grateful. We're grateful to our parents and our students, parents who turned into teachers at a moment's notice and provided so much support for our entire community. We cannot thank you enough. And thank you to our students. Our students who adapted to change. And young people adapt to change I think better than adults, always, but we're so grateful for our students for helping us grown-ups in many ways work with this new technology and also connecting one another and keeping our spirits up as we went throughout the spring and wrapped up the school year. And finally, a huge thank you to all of our teachers and staff members. Teachers have done amazing work throughout these last ten to twelve weeks as we finished up the school year. They're in for a well-deserved break this summer. But, I know teachers are already preparing and thinking about the fall as we move forward. Thanks to all of our staff members, our support staff for working

throughout the summer, our custodians and maintenance, and people at our bus garage— so many different groups.

There's a special group I want to express gratitude for and that's our group of retirees. We have 27 Forest Hills staff members who will be retiring at the end of the month, and they combined, have over 625 years of service to Forest Hills. We are so grateful for those 27 retirees. We wish them well, and come back and see us often.

On to our second item, and that has to do with a chance to get outdoors. I know we've all had a little bit of cabin fever, but starting next week on June 15th, we will be opening our school outdoor sites to athletic exercise. Coaches will be coming together with small groups of their team, and don't be surprised if you see students conditioning and getting out and doing some more exercise on these outdoor sites. Our indoors sites are not open, but outdoors, and students being again having that social distance that they're observing, that will be great to have people out in our wonderful summer weather that we're getting into here in Michigan. The Michigan High School Athletic Association is providing guidelines as sports teams get back together to make sure that kids have a chance to exercise, but also to keep everyone safe. As those guidelines continue to be updated throughout the summer, we'll share that information with our student athletes, our coaches, and our families.

And finally, I just want to share with you a conversation I had with a neighbor. Earlier this week, I was taking a walk and a neighbor of mine said, "Dan, what do you really think is going to happen in the fall? What do you think is going to take place?" And I said, "You know what I really think, is our kids are going to be back in school, we're going to be back in school with face-to-face learning, which is good for kids. It's good for families. We'll come together five days a

week.” I said, “But, I think things will be different.” We want to protect that face-to-face learning. We want to protect all of our students coming into our schools. So there's a few things that we might have to change. So for instance, perhaps we won't have field trips. Perhaps we won't be going to other areas where we could bring the virus back here, to eliminate those type of risks. Perhaps we'll have to look at certain things where we can't stay as socially distant as we would want and postponing those types of activities. The point is, is we want to do everything we can to protect and to keep into place that face-to-face learning, five days a week in our schools. Certainly, we'll have to provide accommodations and options for those students that might have health issues or families that might have immunocompromised people in the family. And, we'll want to make sure we're protecting all of the adults—our staff members, our bus drivers, everyone who works with our kids. So, we might have to take a few extra precautions there. But, that's what I really think is going to happen as we open up the school year this fall.

Let's keep doing the great things we've been doing to keep this virus out of our area. So, continue to do all the things. Make sure if you don't feel well, you stay home. If you feel like you need to get a test, you go and get tested. Cover your cough. Cover your sneeze. Wear facemasks when you're indoors in a place where there are lots of different people, and keep that social distance. All those things will continue to keep this virus at bay and will continue to do great work.

Next week, I'll talk about a plethora of things that are going on for students over the summer. If you're looking for some way to engage your young person

in just a little bit, or something on a frequent, regular basis, we'll have lots of options for you in the Forecast next week.

Until then, I hope you have a great weekend. Take care.