

Hello Forest Hills families and staff members, and welcome to another edition of the Forest Hills Forecast. I'm here in our outstanding bus garage where a great team makes sure all these things role in every time are safe and ready to go. Today, I want to talk with you about four things in the Forecast. First is the status of the coronavirus in our community. Second are some things about summer learning. Third is the ISD survey that was sent out this week. And fourth, is the first day of school in the fall. We're all ready for that perhaps.

About the coronavirus and our community...we are doing a great job. In Grand Rapids Township, Ada Township, Cascade Township we do not have any evidence of community spread of this virus and that is great news. What that means is everyone's collective sacrifices, all the things we've been doing over the last ten, twelve weeks have made a huge difference in keeping this virus at bay and we want to keep up that work.

Because if these numbers stay as low as they are without any community spread, that is great news for the start of school in the fall, in the start of school in the way that we all want, with all of our kids back to school in classrooms five days a week. And that is what we're shooting for. And if we keep up this great work, that's the trajectory that we're on. So great job. Let's keep it up. The battle is not yet over, but we've got this thing at bay. So if we keep doing what we've been doing, great things are going to happen.

The second thing is about summer learning. This summer, we will not be having face-to-face classes that we have. But we do want to provide opportunities for families that are out there. We know that people might be tired of looking at screens and tired of looking at video lessons. We are trying to think of ways that we can help support families, help support students that may want to stay up-to-date on things. We're so thankful for our "Reading Now" books that are coming to all of our elementary students throughout the summer. And putting your nose in a great book, whatever age you are, is still a great thing. But look for more information coming up on summer learning opportunities and supports for parents and families and students coming forward.

The KISD survey. This is a survey that talks about our learning experience that we've had this spring, but more importantly talks about your feelings about the start of school in the fall. Again, our hope as a district, and everything that we are shooting for, is for face-to-face learning, five days a week. But we do want to get the voice of our community. So thank you for the 2,500 people that have already filled out that survey. You have until June 10th to do that. Again, this is a survey combined and created by the ISD and the 20 school districts that are part of the Kent Intermediate School District. If we did it on our own, we might word it a little bit differently, but don't let that throw you off, and if there are other things that we have to do, we can easily push out a survey from Forest Hills this summer if we've got to fine-tune and get your answers on a few more particular items. So stay tuned there. But again, June 10th is the deadline for the survey.

And finally the start of the school year. We're going to start a little bit earlier this year than our previous piece and that's just because it's been such a long time that we've been back in our schools. So Monday, August 24th, is going to be the start of the school year, in-person, in classes, for all of our students; August 24th on that Monday. That's two weeks before Labor Day. Labor Day is kind of later this year, but we think starting a little bit earlier everyone will be right. So please mark your calendars.

In the meantime, keep up the great work in fighting this virus, and we can't wait until these things are back on the road again. I hope you have a great weekend.