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Dear Canterbury Parents:

We hope the first three weeks of school are going well. This is certainly a challenging time for everyone. I have been able to visit many classrooms and talked to many of your children's teachers.

We are very proud of our students. They have been exceptional at managing all the new routines and adjusting to wearing masks. We remain on track to begin a full reopening on October 5. We have ordered additional desks to replace many of the table configurations currently being used in classrooms. The new desks will allow students to be more spread apart once everyone returns to school. As a reminder, each night our custodial crew is washing desks and then disinfecting desks with a second application of disinfectant. While we know transmission of COVID through touching surfaces is rare, we will continue with this protocol.

I continue to participate in weekly webinars with leadership from the State Department of Health. They frequently comment on the importance of wearing masks and engaging in smart hygiene, which includes frequent handwashing and the use of hand sanitizers. I also monitor the weekly CT School Learning Model Indicators, which collects data on the number of new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population per day. For more information on this you can visit <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/CT-School-Reopening/ddy2-ijgu/>. The current metrics in Windham County and New London County remain low.

We continue to receive regular updated guidelines from the State Department of Education and the Office of Early Childhood. As new information becomes available we will share that information with you

The district has received a limited number of individual "hot spots" which can provide any family with free internet access. In addition, the district has received a limited number of vouchers from local cable providers for free internet access. Each school will be sending home a flyer on how to apply for a device or voucher.

I would like to end with a thank you to our entire school community, including staff, students, and families, for your continued patience and flexibility.

In Partnership,

Steve