

**MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit #26  
36 McElwain Street  
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054  
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

**KIMBERLY YARLOTT**  
*Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum*

**EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.**  
Interim Chief Educational Officer

**MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL**  
*Assistant Superintendent for Business*

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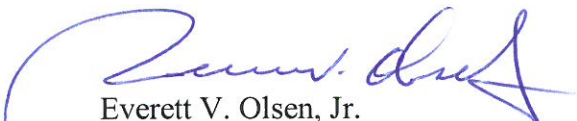
Dear Merrimack Staff, Students and Families:

I hope that you have had an enjoyable, relaxing summer. September is approaching and our focus now shifts to a return to school. We will begin the school year with everyone returning to in-person learning – the educational model that has served students so well, for so many years. Over the last 18 months our students and staff have experienced remote, hybrid, concurrent and in-person learning. Students, staff and parents have done an amazing job in adapting to changing educational models based on the level of COVID transmission.

As we begin a new school year, we continue to be concerned about the impact of the COVID virus. We will begin the year cautiously with many of the protocols and procedures from last year still in place. The School Board recently passed a mask policy that will allow parents to opt-out their child from masking only while in a classroom. I ask that you please refer to the mask section of the Health and Safety Task Force Reopening Document for specific guidance on mask wearing.

I want to thank the members of the Health and Safety Task Force for their excellent work throughout the summer in developing the reopening document. It is the goal of all of us to help provide safe, healthy conditions so that our schools can remain open for in-person instruction. It will take both a school and community effort and I know that we will work together to make this an excellent school year for students, staff and families.

Warm regards,



Everett V. Olsen, Jr.  
Interim Chief Educational Officer