



## GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Laura S. Chesson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

August 17, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

This summer has been both an exciting and challenging time for the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District! As of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Central Office – including the Business Office and Pupil Personnel Services – moved to the back of the south building of the Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School. Visitors to the Central Office should enter the building at Door 8 in the back right corner of the building next to the track. There are a number of visitor and reserved parking spaces just outside this door for parents and community members who need to meet with Central Office staff. As with all moves, our move did not come without challenges. Our phone and email systems have been temperamental due to a combination of the move and the new wiring that is going on across the district. It is our hope to have the systems stabilized by the end of next week.

In addition to new wiring there have been other improvements happening across the district. The gym floor at the high school, which had been damaged due to a water break last winter, has been completely repaired and refinished. The courtyard in the south building of the middle school looks much improved from its previous overgrown jungle appearance. The mulch has been replaced and increased in depth at the Boutwell Early Childhood Center. And preview of coming attractions – all the landscaping at the entrances of the buildings will undergo a “sprucing up” prior to the arrival of teachers on August 27<sup>th</sup>!

Along with the work on our buildings, our staff has also been working hard on expanding their curriculum and pedagogy knowledge throughout the summer. Teachers participated in courses on better meeting the social emotional needs of our students and better meeting the needs of all students in the area of mathematics. The highlight of the summer was our UDL Rockstar Conference in July at the Devens Conference Center. This conference, lead almost exclusively by our teachers, was a sold out event that received rave reviews! We look forward to expanding this conference next year.

All families should shortly be receiving a letter from the principal of the schools their students attend. This letter will include information regarding Back to School nights, school start and end times, and drop off and pick up procedures. To increase our school safety and security protocols we will be changing the time that students arriving to school by walking or parent drop-off will be allowed in the building, as well in some cases the protocol for the release of students who walk home or are picked up by parents. The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. We look forward to your cooperation with these new procedures.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and I look forward to a great school year!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura S. Chesson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Laura S. Chesson, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools