

Hello Ashland Extended Year Recommended Families,

May 11, 2020

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and safe. It has been a trying and stressful time for all of us and I sincerely hope we can as a community (global, national, state and district) find a pathway to having our lives return to a new normal that allows schools to open and people to gather together. I have been doing a great deal of thinking about extended year services for those unique learners whose teams have recommended a schedule modification. At this time, beginning of May, 2020, there has not been any guidance from either Governor Baker or Commissioner Riley about when schools may open and under what types of guidelines. For that reason, I am planning three options to the extended year servicing for students in Ashland.

- The first option is the continuation of remote learning. This means that those students recommended for camp will have virtual meetings/classes Monday through Thursday mixed with suggested activities to do at home under the guidance of parents or older siblings. Related services will offer specific activities either shown by a video clip or described in a document to students who are recommended for that service. There will also be consultations and potentially some zoom services. The remote learning will occur from July 6th through August 13th. Students recommended for tutoring will have small group zoom sessions and activities offered by their tutors. These sessions will be offered at a time that works for both the tutor and the student (Monday through Friday) again from July 6th through August 13th.
- The second option is extended year services that are face to face in our buildings. Pittaway students will be at Pittaway and elementary students will most likely be at Mindess (this is not confirmed as of this letter). Middle and high school students recommended for camp will be at the middle school. Camp will run Monday through Thursday 9-12 from July 6th to August 13th. Related services will be offered during camp hours and arranged with student families if needed, especially if they are offered beyond the camp hours. Tutoring is arranged with each family at a mutually agreeable time through the week again from July 6th through August 13th. There will definitely be new guidelines, which might include students needing to wear face coverings, and with staff emphasizing hygiene and social distancing. Obviously it will be developmentally appropriate for each age.
- The third option is a hybrid of the two outlined above. I anticipate this type of situation to occur if we are unable to open in July but can open in August. However, the decision about the hybrid option will be made prior to the start of camp in order to plan

appropriately. So if the state or local leaders have not been able to identify a date for schools to open by June 30th, the option for Ashland will be an entire remote experience. I hope you all understand that the additional planning that will occur for opening schools is significant, and must be completed when the district leaders are all available.

Please understand that nothing is definite at this point in time. Although I have outlined three options, directions from the state will guide both decisions and any needed adjustments to the options. Further, a decision about which option the district will be able to implement will need to be made BEFORE the summer programs begin, ideally in early June. There needs to be sufficient time to gather all the needed resources and develop any unique processes or procedures and then train the staff involved. During the summer, it is not easy to “pivot” our direction because not all the resources found in the school year are available for the programming.

I am including in this letter a draft of the remote learning plan for you to review. Please feel free to direct any questions to me. I may be reached by email at ksilva@ashland.k12.ma.us . In a later mailing we will be asking you to commit your intent to use extended year services so that we may be proactive in having the appropriate staffing resources.

Summer 2020: Remote Learning

Camp

The following schedule will be offered from 9-12 and will be directed by the individual teacher. Related services will be able to schedule alternative times to offer zoom sessions or to include themselves into the zoom meetings of the class.

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Zoom Session (30-45 Minutes)	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
Teacher Office Hours (30 minutes)		Yes		Yes
Social Group (20-30 minutes)	Yes		Yes	
Home Activity Suggestions (60 minutes)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Related Services Block (Discrete Trials, SP/L, OT, PT, 30 minutes))	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Tutoring:

Tutoring will be offered Monday through Thursday and hours will be negotiated by the tutor. Tutoring will be a combination of small group zoom meetings and home activities.

Related Services Only:

Itinerant related services will be offered Monday through Thursday and hours will be negotiated by the related services professional. Services will be a combination of small group zoom meetings and home activities.
