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Forest Hills Families and Staff,

This week marks the close of remote learning for the 2019-2020 academic year. What a journey it's been! During the past two months, we've faced possibly the most unique circumstances in modern-day history. Together, we united to overcome these circumstances, with a focus on supporting high-quality learning opportunities for all Forest Hills students. It hasn't been easy. As such, I want to thank you for the hard work you've contributed to help motivate, encourage and celebrate our learners.

It's probable that you have questions regarding what next year may look like. I have questions too. Throughout the past few months, district actions have been guided by mandates and decisions made by Governor DeWine and Ohio's Health Director Amy Acton. This will remain true as we plan for the possibilities of different operational and educational scenarios for next school year. We are committed to the gathering of feedback in order to make informed decisions that make sense for Forest Hills. We have already begun this important discussion with staff members, and a survey for parents and students will be forthcoming. While we don't have answers for you right now, rest assured that we will continue to communicate with you throughout the summer.

I have received questions regarding the effects of COVID-19 on school finances. As you may have read in a previous district email update, Governor Mike DeWine announced a \$300 million reduction in state funding to K-12 schools *this school year*. As a result Forest Hills received an immediate budget cut of more than \$1.6 million. While this sudden and significant reduction from the state is unfortunate, the good news is our team has moved swiftly to put cost reduction plans in place. Through savings associated with the district's transition to remote learning (such as substitute teachers, utilities and fuel), as well as attrition and staffing efficiencies, the district is doing all that it can to minimize the impact of this enormous reduction and protect student programming.

We do not yet know if budget reductions in K-12 funding will impact the 2020-2021 school year, but we must prepare. While we await more updates from the state, our team will continue to seek and implement efficiencies. As always, it is our goal to provide high-quality education, resources and student opportunities at a good value for our community.

As I am certain you are aware, tomorrow marks the final day of the 19-20 school year for students! Families and staff members recently celebrated (from a safe distance!) our students during special neighborhood caravans. If you're a parent of a high school senior, you've likely

talked with one of our principals during a personal visit congratulating the Class of 2020 and hand-delivering items as we prepare for the May 31 [virtual commencement ceremonies](#). It has been uplifting, energizing and encouraging to see big smiles, school spirit and widespread community support for these visits. Thank you for helping to wrap up this unusual school year on such a high note!

While school is out, we will continue to work diligently on plans regarding next year. Please keep an eye out for more communication from me, and treasurer/CFO Alana Cropper, as we learn more about what the 20-21 school year may look like.

Respectfully,
Scot