



June 16, 2020

Dear Avondale Parents,

It's hard to believe that we just had the last official day of school. What a crazy year! We never could have imagined that something like this could have happened. I have had many conversations with teachers and staff, and one thing is a common theme: we miss the kids! Seeing them on Zoom is just not the same. We much prefer to have our students here with us every day. Not having their smiling faces here is deflating for all of us. We are hoping to be able to see them in August.

We just had our 6th grade drive-through promotion (we would have loved to have had a regular ceremony, but this is currently not permitted). It was a big success and it was great to see our 6th grade students one last time. It breaks my heart that we lost the last few months of their 6th grade year – we usually have special events just for them. We had such an amazing 6th grade class and they will be missed tremendously.

A question I get asked frequently: "What will next year look like?" Well, unfortunately, I don't really know. We are all kind of on unfamiliar ground right now, and the district has been taking the lead trying to figure out what is happening, which is why my communication to you has been infrequent. I know the district is keeping all parents informed and things seem to keep changing. It appears that we are starting to receive guidelines from the California Department of Health, and students will be back in the fall, so that is good news. However, it doesn't look like business as usual, so please keep checking for district updates throughout the summer.

I want to thank all of you for your hard work in helping your child academically during this time. I am sure it has not been easy, and I know that many families are struggling during this pandemic, so for some, it may be difficult to devote as much time as you would like to academics. We have a plaque on the wall here in the office that says, "Nothing you do for children is ever wasted" – Garrison Keillor. This is so true – any amount of time that you can give your child, and that we can give our students, is precious. So, thank you for helping them during this crazy time.

Have a fantastic summer! The district and Avondale will be sending out emails throughout the summer, so please look for them. You can also email me anytime: john.ashley@lmsvschools.org.

Thank you!

- Dr. Ashley