Dear Parents:

First, I want to thank all of the community members, parents, and staff who have offered to help as we navigate the difficult situation we face in Tisbury. As I reported to you last week, Tisbury School students and staff will be relocated due to recent detailed reports indicating the presence of lead paint in portions of the old section of the school. While we have known lead paint existed in the building for many years, deterioration of the building, including paint chipping, has increased at a faster rate than in prior years, even in areas that were previously remediated. We were advised by the Department of Public Health to clean all chipping paint, regardless of whether it contains lead.

Determining how and where students will attend school is challenging, as we need to consider safety, security, transportation and a myriad of necessary educational supports. Our initial plan was to utilize the Camp Jabberwocky campus for the Kindergarten through 4th grade classes. After consultation with town and state officials, we have decided that there is a better option. We greatly appreciate Camp Jabberwocky’s willingness to help out.

The newer section of the Tisbury School was constructed in 1993, thus no lead was used. We are able to isolate this section of the school, with the help of certified professionals, and will ensure that children will not be in areas that have lead paint. Kindergarten through 4th grade will be relocated to this section of the building. We will utilize the emergency services building across the street for a cafeteria.

The Town of Tisbury is currently working on procuring modular classrooms to house the school while a permanent solution is completed. We are expeditiously working to construct these classrooms on the current site. Any lead remediation will NOT begin until all grades are safely housed in the modular classrooms.

Tisbury Middle School, grades five through eight will use the High School. Classrooms will be grouped together and isolated from the rest of the school as much as possible. Students will have a designated set of bathrooms and will eat lunch in the Culinary Arts Dining Room. Students will use the entrance near the Culinary Arts Dining Room to access their classrooms and will operate on a different time schedule. All students will be accompanied by an adult while in the High School. Assistant Principal Melissa Ogden will be stationed at the High School, along with a Tisbury School secretary and a nurse.

I expect that you and your children have many questions. We will be updating information daily as final plans are solidified. The Tisbury PTO is helping to keep everyone informed through social media and email correspondence, as well.
Some Important Information:

- **School Start Date:** School will start on **September 9th**. For families who need help with childcare from September 3-6, we have arranged care for k-5th grade at the YMCA from 8:00-3:00. Parents will need to provide their own transportation. Please contact Nina Lombardi at 508-696-7171 to arrange.
- **Transportation:** Transportation will be provided for all students to and from school. Buses for students to the high school will only include students from the Tisbury School. A final schedule will be completed no later than September 4th.
- **Kindergarten:** Half day kindergarten will take place for two weeks, as planned. Due to the delay, the half-day schedule will go from Monday, September 9th through Friday, September 20th.
- **Orientation:** There will be separate orientations for both k-4 and 5-8. Detailed information will be sent to parents in the coming days.
- **How will the delayed start impact the school calendar?** We will need to make up four days for school due to the delay. Once we have that schedule in place we will share it with families.
- **Will my students have specials and access to band and strings?** Yes.
- **Will my Student’s IEP need to be adjusted?** We do not anticipate any changes. All IEP requirements will be met. If you are concerned about you child’s special needs or you think your child will need special accommodations, please contact Nancy Dugan at 508-693-2007 ext. 20.
- **For special health needs/concerns?** Contact Catherine Coogan at 508-696-6500.

Thank you for your support and patience.

Sincerely,

Matthéw D’Andrea, LP.D.