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Michelle Dutrow, Superintendent

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Good Afternoon:

Having had the chance to get outside late yesterday afternoon for a long walk after a very busy week at school, it was nice to enjoy the warm temperatures and sunshine. However, as it pours outside today, with a good bit of rain forecasted for the next several days, I can't help but wonder if someone greater isn't compelling us to stay inside and away from others. We know there are many questions regarding COVID-19 and its effects not only on our public health but also the ripples that affect our families, employment, day to day routines, and education and its related operations. My update today is meant to deal with some of those education and operations questions. As always, I will provide you with the most current information we have understanding that our plans are subject to change as dictated by the path of this virus.

Continuity of Instruction (aka "At-Home School")

We are ready to roll on Monday with instruction at home. The elementary packets were delivered to bus stops, middle school and high school laptops were picked up at the school, and the middle and high school teachers are finalizing their assignments. Following are a few points:

1. If you still need to retrieve anything from the school (laptop, packet, instrument, clothing left behind), that must happen this Monday. Please call the school to let us know when you are coming to the school. We will not be continuing to open our doors to the public as we must comply with closure requirements.
2. We have planned for 10 days of schoolwork. Students will have review/enrichment activities for Monday through Friday for a two-week period. Assignments have been designed for about 30 minutes each, less for younger students. Middle and High School teachers are to have the first week of assignments to students by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. Please email your child's teacher or principal if you do not receive assignments.
3. Teachers will be available to answer questions, offer assistance, modify assignments, etc. between the hours of 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If a teacher doesn't respond right away, please be patient. Please keep in mind that they too are caring for their own children and are working to balance being your child's teacher with being their child's parent.
4. Students are expected to complete the assignments given. Elementary packets will be returned to the school either at the time the school reopens or upon delivery of your next packet. Teachers will provide directions on how middle and high school students are to return assignments for teacher review.

5. Questions may be directed to your child's teacher along with requests for assistance. If your child is still struggling with an activity, after touching base with the teacher, try your best and then move on. We do not students frustrated but rather just engaged.
6. Students will not be doing Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes while at home. No student will be penalized for not meeting the 3rd nine weeks requirements and the 4th nine weeks will be dealt with after the school reopens.
7. Career & Technical Education (CTC) students will be contacted by their CTC instructor with additional assignments.

Internet Access

We have received questions as to how families might get internet access. While we are unable to provide the access to you at your home, we do have a few suggestions:

1. Property Access: The district has installed district access points at various locations outside of our buildings. We will allow students to come onto the property to access the internet. Any student/parent coming onto the property must remain in their vehicle and refrain from congregating with others. The hours will be 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Any failure to follow these restrictions or damage to the property will result in the property being closed.
 - Parking Lot between the Football Stadium and High School Building
2. Local Providers: There are several local internet providers and/or cellphone providers offering free or discounted services. It may be worth a call to see if your provider has an offer that would suit your needs.

School Calendar

The information we have from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is that schools will not need to adjust their calendars to make up these days. The School Code bill, passed earlier this week, waives the 180-day requirement. This should allow us to complete the school year as scheduled pending approval from our Board of Directors. This plan is consistent with the other school districts in the CIU#10 region (Centre and Clearfield Counties). Any adjustments being discussed have to do with employee training days. Again, this is subject to change, but we will keep you posted.

Report Cards

We have received questions about report cards for the 3rd marking period. Report cards will be issued in the future although we cannot provide a date at this time. Once we iron out the parameters needed because of the shortened marking period, the teachers will issue grades and the report cards will be generated and distributed.

PTO Gardner's Candy Fundraiser

The distribution for the Gardner's candy fundraiser will still be held on Monday, March 30th from 4:00 – 5:00 pm in front of the school. To meet closure requirements, the candy pick-u will adhere to a drive-thru format. When you arrive on the property, please enter the driveway at the Elementary School and proceed to the Rotunda. Members of the PTO will be outside the Rotunda entrance to give you your order.

Communication

Although our schools are closed until further notice, administrators and teachers continue to monitor their email. You may continue to contact any of your child's teachers through their school email or the parent communication app (Remind, Class Dojo, Google Classroom). We strongly encourage our parents/families to check our district Facebook page as well. This is the easiest way for us to get out quick pieces of information. Moving forward, I will keep you updated but will try to limit these lengthy communications to twice a week when possible. Much of that depends on the timing of the directives we receive from our federal and state officials.

Please continue to stay strong, adhere to staying home as much as possible, use social distancing when you must go out and about, and keep washing those hands!!!!

Sincerely,

Michelle Dutrow

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Superintendent of Schools