

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.”
– Alice Walker

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March 13, 2020

Dear North Shore School District 112 Staff, Parents, & Community,

I’m writing with a “quick --*but not brief*-- check-in” with respect to the continuity of education & support during this extended school closure due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are working on many supports and resources and guidance during this unprecedented interruption in learning and school district operations. ***More detailed communications will be sent starting on Monday.***

First - Thank you for the many offers of support, help, and volunteerism. *Second* - Thank you for your respectful flexibility in our daily pivots of planning and actions -- this is ever-changing and quite fast-moving. *Third* - we cannot respond to the volume of emails in a 24 hour time period right now - please understand our main focus is on the continuation of foodservice and education during this Pandemic.

Food Service/Delivery

- **Pre School Today**
 - Blessings in a backpack food pickup (drive-up) took place today from 10 am-2 pm at the Preschool (at least 50 families have received meals today)
- **All Families**
 - As a priority, the District will be providing meals for all community members age 18 & under. Food will be available for curbside pickup (drive-up or walk-up) at Oak Terrace school at 10:00 AM-11:00 AM:
 - March 16-19
 - March 30-April 3
 - April 6-April 10

- Child(ren) will need to be present for pickup, but there are no eligibility requirements other than age.
- Those who pick up a meal will receive a cold breakfast and a cold lunch, both of which will meet the USDA and National School Lunch Program guidelines.

Community Engagement

- Chris Wildman and Ginger Brown will be speaking with Moraine Township this afternoon to understand what other resources are available to our community. Moraine Township will be providing food to the community during Spring Break (March 23-27).
- We have received numerous requests from the community to help those families most in need. While we are grateful at this overwhelming offer of kindness and support, at this time we believe that we have adequate resources.
- We will be coordinating efforts with other entities throughout this process.

Teaching & Learning

- The continuation of learning, including an on-line self-paced collection of courses for students in grades 1-8, will be available possibly late next week (March 19th). Information will be sent out when it's available.
- We will extend an option for K-2 parents regarding iPads, and specific plans for sending home devices, in a separate communication next week.
- Planning with teachers and administrators for teacher/student interaction during this prolonged break is underway.
- We anticipate offering teacher/student “classroom” time via web-based solutions for distance learning following spring break.

General

Monday, March 16

Parental Pick up of Materials at the Schools

- Parents may come in to pick up belongings that are essential for their child (medication, Chromebooks, musical instruments, etc...). We ask that you continue to maintain social distance, refrain from congregating, only come into the school building if you must, and please be mindful of the time you are spending there.

Report Cards

- Due to the unforeseen closure, the delivery of report cards will be delayed until Thursday, March 19th.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 - Parent-Teacher Conferences will be conducted via phone at home versus the option of coming into the building to support social distancing. We will send instructions as to how to set up something like Google Voice early next week.

We understand that the closure of schools impacts your lives and the normal operation of our community. While this is unprecedented in our time, please remain calm and exercise good hygiene.

With respect and appreciation,

Mike

Michael Lubelfeld Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
