

March 27, 2020

Millersburg Area School District Community,

As we conclude the second week of the Governor's initial mandatory 10-day school closure, the administration continues to participate in daily briefings provided by the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Education (PDE) and/or Governor Tom Wolf. On Monday, March 23, 2020, the PDE released the following information:

*The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced today [March 23, 2020] all schools in the Commonwealth will remain closed through at least April 6 as a result of the COVID-19 response efforts. The closure order could be extended beyond April 6 if necessary, to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19*

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, the PDE released the following guidance to school districts regarding Continuity of Education efforts.

*Continuity of Education is the overarching term for any educational practices that occur in the event of a prolonged school closure. It is important that students have the opportunity to develop and maintain skills while away from the customary school environment. This can be achieved through Planned Instruction, Enrichment and Review or a combination thereof.*

*1. **Planned Instruction:** Planned Instruction is formal teaching and learning similar to that which occurs in a classroom setting. Within this process, teachers use planned courses of instruction of new concepts/skills aligned to grade level standards.*

*2. **Enrichment and Review:** Enrichment and Review consists of informal activities that reinforce or extend students' prior learning. New standards and skills are not addressed through Enrichment and Review.*

Upon receipt of this additional guidance from the PDE, and reviewing our Board-approved 2019-2020 school calendar, students would return to school on Wednesday, April 15. It is not my intent to use April 9, 13 or 14 as make-up days or to revise the Board-approved calendar for the remainder of the school year. This return date is completely dependent upon the further direction of extended mandated school closure received by the Governor or the PDE.

With this information in mind, it's time to provide an update on the District's plan for Continuity of Education during the current closure as well as an extended closure, if mandated. The two plans are as follows:

March 23, 2020 – April 3, 2020: The teachers will continue to develop Enrichment and Review activities; informal activities that reinforce or extend students' prior learning. New standards and skills are not addressed through Enrichment and Review. Updated activities will be posted to teacher websites or Canvas courses by 8:00 AM Monday, March 30, 2020. The activities will continue to be designed to provide a few fun, educational options for students as we continue to navigate these still churning waters. **Please note, there are no instructional expectations of students during the Governor's current mandated school closure.**

April 6, 2020 – May 29, 2020 (*IF the mandated closure is extended*): The District will begin to implement a two-pronged approach to Planned Instruction activities; formal teaching and learning *similar to* that which occurs in a classroom setting. Within this process, teachers use planned courses of instruction of new concepts/skills aligned to grade level standards. The District's goal is to provide students and families with learning opportunities they can do at home. *These activities are not meant to replace daily classroom instruction.* Teachers will be providing feedback to students that will help them with retention of previously learned concepts and new material that will be presented during the duration of the closure.

A communication articulating the District's specific Continuity of Education plan will be sent via SchoolMessenger on April 1, 2020.

Your child's classroom teacher remains your best resource to help you with the work he/she is posting for completion. It is important for all of us to be flexible and work together as we navigate these new, uncharted waters.

I anticipate the coming weeks may provide a multitude of challenges, in many ways, as we prepare to embark on this new journey. The District's Continuity of Education plan will focus on keeping our community safe and our students academically engaged. I want to personally thank you for your efforts in supporting the District in its endeavors. As a community, I ask you to continue practicing social distancing, washing your hands, and please ... be safe!

With sincere appreciation of your support and understanding,

Thomas J. Haupt  
Superintendent of Schools