

CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

“WARRIOR PRIDE”

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CANTON AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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CANTON JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL

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March 19, 2020

Dear Families and Staff of the Canton Area School District,

As the region, State and country deal with the impact of COVID-19, information and guidance is ever changing in the effort to keep all of us safe and stop the spread of the virus. I wanted to take a moment to thank the community for their patience, understanding, and care expressed during this time. I also encourage all district community members to be as flexible and accommodating to one another as possible. The less stressful we can make this transition for everyone, the better. Remember, do not panic! This too will pass!

Over the past few days, our administrative team has been asked multiple questions about various issues around our school and the details of how we may or may not respond as we navigate these uncharted waters of the Coronavirus. I am going to do my best to attempt to answer as many questions as possible, but please understand, you may be left with more questions than answers. I cannot emphasize enough how much we continue to appreciate your patience with us.

WHERE CAN I FIND UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS AND THE IMPACT IT HAS ON CANTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT?

We have created a tab on our webpage that we are updating by the minute. To find this information, please go to our website at www.canton.k12.pa.us. Go to the “Communities” tab and the first item on the list is “Coronavirus Updates.” Click on this link and it will take you to the Coronavirus section.

STATUS OF SCHOOL CLOSURE

The District is officially closed through March 29, 2020 pending further instructions and guidance from Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. I understand that this temporary situation may be difficult for some families to adapt to, but do believe it is in the best interest of the health and safety of our entire community. As of the time of this correspondence, we would expect students to return to the district on Monday, March 30, 2020.

WILL WE HAVE TO MAKE UP DAYS?

The Governor has stated that districts will not be penalized for not meeting the 180 day or hour (990 secondary/900 elementary) requirements for the school year; however, there is great debate as to whether districts must attempt to use all days available to them prior to June 30th. At this time, there is no definitive recommendation from the Department of Education regarding extending or rescheduling the end of the school year. We expect to know more about this in the coming weeks and will communicate every new update as information becomes available and as new decisions are made. At this point, it is our intent to make up these first none days by changing April 13th to a student day and adding the remaining eight to the end of the current last day for students (May 29). At this point, we intend to maintain May 29th as graduation for seniors but the final day of instruction for non-seniors would be June 10th.

HOW LONG WILL THE FOOD PROGRAM LAST?

At this point, we plan to continue to provide the current food program through March 27, 2020. If schools remain closed, our goal is to continue with this same program through the school closure. If we have an issue where this program is no longer an option for us, we are already exploring an alternative option for planning food service delivery for our students.

ATHLETICS/SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES/OTHER

At this time, there will be no athletic events or practices. All field trips and other extracurricular activities are canceled through March 30, 2020. We will be meeting as an administrative team to look at all events, week by week, and post the postponements and cancellations on our website.

LEGISLATION

I want to also share with the community that our state government is currently working on legislation that will hopefully provide some more clarity around the following areas: statewide assessments and waiver requirements for school days. This legislation is anticipated to be passed in the coming days, and my hope it provides us with continued guidance on how we will move forward through the mitigation phase of the Coronavirus.

As always, thank you for your patience with my team and myself. We will continue to keep you updated with any major changes via our social media outlets and through our all call system. Please stay safe out there!

Yours in Education,

Eric Briggs, Ed.D.

Eric Briggs, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Canton Area School District