May 1, 2020

Parents, Guardian, and Community Members,

My hope is that you and your families are safe as we continue to move forward in these pandemic times. As I am sure you are aware, our students, teachers, and administration are busy working through the transition of Planned Instruction and planning for what the school district will be doing to close out the year and to begin planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The purpose of this correspondence is to update you on important programs and services we continue to work on as a district now, and how we are preparing for the future.

**Meal Distribution**

This week, we continued our weekly distribution of food to our families in need. Recall, we have moved from a ‘three days a week’ distribution to distributing food ‘one day a week: Monday’. This past week, through our four locations, we distributed food for over 124 students (372 bags). We will continue to provide meals to families once a week, through the Memorial Day week. The final distribution date will be Tuesday, May 26. After this week, the local churches will look to begin the summer food program. More information about the summer food program will be available in the coming weeks.

**Graduation Update**

Mr. Jacopetti has been working diligently with the senior class and the advisors to plan for this event. As a reminder, the Canton Area School District will celebrate its graduation with the students on Friday, May 29th. The student video will begin at 5:40 PM. The 6 PM virtual graduation ceremony will begin with the students starting to receive their diplomas around 7:15 PM. Over the next week or two, we will be providing more specific guidance on how the parents and the community can access this ceremony, and we will issue strict social distancing guidance for all parties involved closer to the graduation date. **Please understand our current plan is in place assuming that Bradford County is in the “yellow phase” in Pennsylvania’s Re-Opening Plan.** We expect an update to our status (Bradford County) on the Governor’s Re-Opening Plan by next Friday, May 8. If we stay in the “red phase”, we would have to re-evaluate what the graduation on May 29th would look like.

**Re-entry Plan: Closing Out The 2019-2020 School Year**

This past week, the administration team has developed a DRAFT Re-Opening Plan for our district. I want to emphasize that we currently are in the DRAFT phase as we want to wait to finalize this once we receive further guidance from the Governor’s Office. Once this plan is finalized, we will share it with our staff and the community so everyone can be prepared to collaborate with us through this Re-Entry Plan option.

On behalf of all the staff of the Canton Area School District, thank you for continuing to support your child’s education through these very challenging times. Warrior Pride!

Yours in Education,

Dr. Eric Briggs

Eric Briggs, D.Ed.

Superintendent of Schools

Canton Area School District