December 18, 2020

Canton School District Community:

As you know by now, these continue to be trying times for our community as we end what I believe is the homestretch of this pandemic. It is hard to believe that this pandemic has lasted this long and changed our lives in so many ways. I don’t know about you, but for me, I am ready for this pandemic to be over and hopefully be able to move forward with our lives. Here’s to a more promising 2021!

The purpose of this correspondence is to share with you our plans, as a school district, for our return to school after our holiday break. As you know, we have a ½ day of school on Tuesday, December 22, 2020, and then we enter our break. We are scheduled to return on campus with our in-person instruction on Monday, January 4, 2021. After reviewing the data that we have collected around COVID-19 cases and close contacts, as an administrative team, we believe it is in our students’ (and their families) best interest to pivot to our remote learning model on January 4, 2021. We will remain in our remote learning platform through Friday, January 8, 2021. **We will return to in-person instruction on Monday January 11, 2021.**

Elementary students have two options to receive their technology devices for this remote learning time. First, if your child is in school on Monday, we will be sending each child home with a device. If your child is not in school on Monday, you will be able to contact the elementary school and choose a time to pick up your equipment. **You will be able to pick up equipment between the hours of 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM on Monday and 8:00 AM – 12 PM on Tuesday.**

As our students are already aware, the Governor has shut down our high school sports and extra-curricular programs through January 4, 2021 at 8 AM. Because we are moving to our remote learning platform out of safety for our students and staff, we are going to extend this pause on athletics and extra-curricular activities until Friday, January 8, 2021, at 3:00 PM. **We will allow all athletic and extra-curricular activities to resume on Friday, January 8, 2021, at 3:00 PM.**

Unfortunately, there will be no meals provided for Monday, January 4th and Tuesday, January 5th. However, we urge you to come to the elementary school to pick up meals on Tuesday, January 5th from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM or 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The FREE meals provided will be for Wednesday January 6th, Thursday, January 7th, and Friday January 8th if your student(s) is normally an “in person” student. If your student(s) is normally a “full time virtual learner”, you will also receive meals for Monday January 11th, and Tuesday, January 12th. Your continued support of the Food Service Program allows the district to continue providing free meals to all our students.

We continue to acknowledge the extra stress that this places on some of our families. We have done our best to ensure that our students’ and staff’s safety has been at the forefront of our decisions. We believe by extending this break, we will be able to minimize the number of close contacts that could potentially exist as the case count has shown to increase after extended breaks for our students and staff. Thank you for your continued understanding and support of these decisions.

As always, please visit our website and submit any questions you have to the “Questions” email account posted on our webpage. Finally, I want to wish you all a very safe, enjoyable and relaxing holiday season. From my family to yours, I hope this becomes one of the most joyous times of year for you and your family!

Yours in Education,

Dr. Eric Briggs