

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

I wanted to provide you with an update on our operations and delivery of instruction as of today, March 18, 2020. Effective at 4:00 p.m. today all schools and the district office will be closed. District office staff and school office staff have the ability to remotely answer the district and school office phones from home if you need to contact us during weekdays from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The decision to close the schools and the district office was made in consideration of my main priority - the health and safety of you and your families as well as our community at large. Schools will remain closed indefinitely and a more formalized distance learning platform will be in place for grades preK-12 as of Monday, March 30, 2020.

More information about the new learning platform, the virtual school day, and the school-family partnership necessary in this new model will be sent to you next week. Special education staff will continue to collaborate with general educators under the supervision of the Director of Special Services, Allison Van Etten, to provide individualized learning opportunities in this new virtual format. The district is in constant communication with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE) secure the most updated guidance from these entities regarding equitable learning opportunities for all students. Case managers will be contacting families next week.

The Tech department plans to distribute devices and hotspots as needed from the Stonington High School site on March 26th, March 27th, and March 31st. Students in grades K-5 and a small group of high school students will be provided devices to ensure access to the curricula and enable all students to complete the school year online. A delivery schedule for Deans Mill School, West Vine Street School and Stonington High School will be published next week. This deployment process is dependent on the timely delivery of devices and you will be updated accordingly.

Stonington Public Schools is providing free breakfast and lunch service for children 18 and under regardless of free and reduced lunch status. To reserve meals for pick up at Stonington High School between 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on weekdays or to arrange for breakfast/lunch delivery call 860-572-0506 and press 8 to reach a support person who will take your order and information. You may schedule a meal to be delivered or place an order for pick up. The hours to call are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Please know this situation continues to change by the minute and we will provide you updates in a timely manner. Updates will also be posted to the district website. To that end, it is critical you frequently check your email as we rely on you to partner with us now more than ever to keep your children safe while engaging them in meaningful learning.

Stay safe and healthy. I thank you for your continued flexibility and patience.

Dr. Van Riley
Superintendent