

Please see below a message from Shirley K. Klein, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services:

Dear Families,

This week has truly been an extraordinary eLearning experience for all of our students and families! Staff, students, and families have been balancing time on tasks, learning new digital platforms, and finding time to connect with friends and family!

By now, the special education teachers and related service providers have reached out to families and coordinated efforts and schedules to support our students as we venture into a new framework for learning.

As you can imagine, switching the platform for instruction for almost 5000 Darien students in such a short time frame has been a herculean task. Special education administrators, facilitators, teachers and related service providers have been indefatigable in their efforts to provide learning opportunities to support student learning. We have been inspired and awed by their creativity and excitement to provide enriching, high-quality instruction during this unprecedented time.

Our goal, first and foremost, is to continue to connect with students and maintain the critically important relationships your children have with their teams of educators. Staff have written and performed songs, posted lessons, created innovative video lessons, collaborated with each other day and night over video platforms, and at times have been live teaching from their homes, all in the hope of maintaining their strong relationships and the academic excellence that your children have come to expect from their dedicated teams. Many of these teachers have accomplished all of this while caring for their own children who are also at home!

This Monday, you will receive two important e-mail communications from me. First, you will receive a notice regarding confidentiality during videoconferencing. Second, you will receive an FAQ document for families regarding District practices related to special education during the school closure. We hope you will find these documents clarifying and informative.

We have all learned during this school closure that information, guidance, and regulations are constantly evolving. We will continue to work closely with our governing bodies and community to provide you the most up-to-date information.

Please continue to reach out to us with any questions or concerns regarding your child's eLearning experience. We hope you and yours are staying healthy and connected!

Warmest regards,
Shirley

Shirley K. Klein
Assistant Superintendent
Special Education and Student Services
Darien Public Schools