



SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent

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Dear Scranton School District Students, Parents, and Community Members,

The health and wellness of our students, staff, and community is a top priority. As you are aware, the coronavirus is a newly discovered respiratory virus that has been diagnosed in the United States and other countries around the world.

With a goal of slowing the entry of the virus into the United States, on February 2nd, the federal government implemented a series of travel restrictions and warnings on travel to and from China, South Korea, Iran, Japan, and Italy. If you or a family member has visited any of these countries you should avoid contact with others and follow the voluntary self-quarantine recommendations for at least 14 days. More information is available on the Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) website.

Tips to Protect yourself and others:

- Staying home when sick.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose. If hands are visibly dirty, use soap and water to clean hands.
- Not touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash and cleaning hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Get a flu shot during the flu season.
- Schools will continue their routine cleaning and disinfection program, emphasizing cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- The Scranton School District provides supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

The Scranton School District is dedicated to disinfecting frequently touched surfaces such as door handles/knobs, bathrooms, water coolers, desks, countertops, school supplies, lunch tables, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys.

Distance Learning in the Event of School Closure:

In the event the Scranton School District must be closed due to the virus, all students have been assigned to their respective classes in Google Classroom or APEX. All students in K-12 will have access to Google Classroom. Additionally, all students in grades 6-12 will have access to APEX courses. Teachers will post assignments in Google Classroom or assign material in APEX

courses. The Remind app will also be used for classroom announcements, assignments, and parental notification. Google Classroom, APEX, and Remind can all be accessed by using a smartphone. Students without computer access may use the local public libraries. Screen-shots with basic directions will be distributed to all staff. APEX representatives will arrange for multiple “GoTo” meetings to help acclimate teachers to the APEX platform.

In addition to the precautions mentioned above, members of the Scranton School District central level staff met on Monday, March 2, 2020, with members of the Scranton Federation of Teachers and the following areas were discussed:

- The importance of updating school administrators, teachers, students, families, and the community on precautionary measures provided by the Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) via our website.
- Communicating facts from the Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) website.
- Posters from the Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) website were distributed to all schools for display.
- A plan was created for students to continue distance learning through Google Classroom and APEX.

The district’s head nurse, Melissa Dailey, will update all school nurses on any new developments. School nurses will partner with Physical Education teachers to present a lesson on safety and precautionary measures during Physical Education classes. During these classes, nurses and Health and Physical Education teachers will be demonstrating the proper hand washing techniques.

Kathy Bevilacqua, our Transportation Director, contacted the bus company to ensure all busses are wiped down daily.

Go To Meeting will be utilized by central administration staff to communicate with all building administrators. In the event the superintendent becomes ill, central office administrators will work with Dr. Finan to continue the operation of the Scranton School District.

Updates to parents will be communicated from both the building administration, through the Remind App, One Call system, postings on the Scranton School District’s website, and local news outlets.

The safety and wellness of students, staff, and community is the number one priority in the Scranton School District. If we all continue to adhere to the daily precautions as mentioned above, we can help ensure our students and community remain healthy. Please share this information with your family and caregivers. The Scranton School District will continue to provide additional updates as needed.



Sincerely,
Melissa McTiernan