



Newsletter

Superintendent Goguen

April 3, 2020

Dear Students, Staff and Families,

I am so **very proud** of the entire Webster School Community and our ongoing efforts to support our students and families from afar.



Our teachers, staff, and administrators have been working diligently over the past three weeks to figure out the best ways to keep remote learning happening for our students. It is evident the initial structures we put in place from the start of our school closure on March 12th continue to serve us well. Our daily office hours and outreach will continue throughout this school closure.

It is important for you to know, we continue to assess and reflect upon what is working best for all students and our teachers during this new remote learning environment. During our planning sessions a week ago, we decided not to Zoom with our students, all work would be documented, and feedback would be given to students. We continue to believe “remote learning is not synonymous with on-line learning,” and that this is the time to explore creative learning opportunities that are directly connected to our students’ daily lives at home.

I must continue to stress, **the most important thing right now is to ensure everyone remains safe and continues to follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing and good hygiene, while following the Governor’s stay at home order.**

We realize that many students may still want to go out and hang out with friends in neighborhoods or to other people’s houses, but we continue to urge parents, guardians, caregivers, and grandparents, not to allow this during the COVID-19 pandemic. We know setting new limits on children, adolescents, and young adults is challenging, but as the cases in Massachusetts increase, I urge all families to limit the contact students are having to just those who they live with. COVID-19 is highly contagious, and as difficult as it is, staying home is one way to protect our students from catching this disease.

All families will inevitably develop new routines and schedules that work for them, and I want to remind families that our school counselors are available (remotely) should students need additional support and strategies to acclimate to this drastic change of living.



Developing new routines may be helpful during these challenging times. Here are some tips that may be helpful for our students:

1. Get up early. Stick to the routine of getting up early as if you were going to school
2. Eat a healthy breakfast and get dressed for a successful day!
3. Set up a work area where you can do your school-work without interruptions.
 - a. Send a daily message to your teachers. They miss YOU!
 - b. Start a journal – for art, story telling, writing, or capturing your thoughts and feelings.
4. Get daily exercise while maintaining social distancing.
 - a. Take a hike, walk, or bike ride with your family members and remember to stay 6 feet away from anyone who does not live with you.

Remote Learning:

- All teachers continue to provide daily outreach with enrichment activities for our students.
- All teachers continue to have office hours Monday- Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to assist students/families.
- With the recent guidance from the Commissioner of Education (sent to families March 30th), Bartlett High School teachers are now incorporating new content in their daily work assignments for students.
- All teachers will continue to track assignments as completed or not completed.
- All teachers will continue to provide feedback to students (not grades) to assist them with maintaining and developing their skills.
- Note: If students are struggling, please notify your teacher, counselor, school administrator...we are here to help!



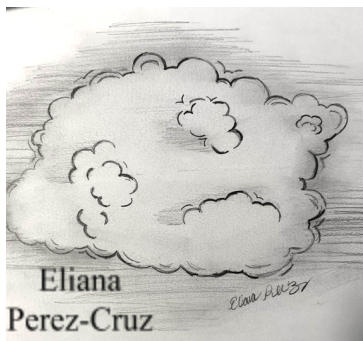
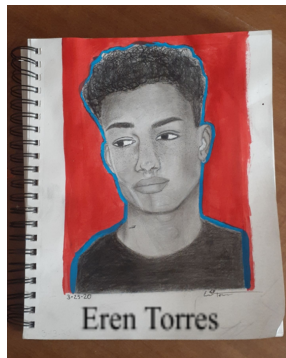
Recognitions:

1. **Congratulations to Hannah Picchioni** as she was recently announced as one of the four \$1000 scholarship winners from the Dudley Women's Club! Hannah was selected based on her Community Service Essay, Academics, Community Service and Extracurricular Activities! Only four female students are selected each year for this particular scholarship. You may remember reading about Hannah this winter... She is exceptionally talented and was accepted and performed with the All State Chorus this winter in Boston!

Way to Go Hannah!



2. **Kudos to Mr. Harrington and his students** for starting a Virtual Art Gallery. Visit the site below often to keep an eye on the talents of our high school students!



Important Reminders:

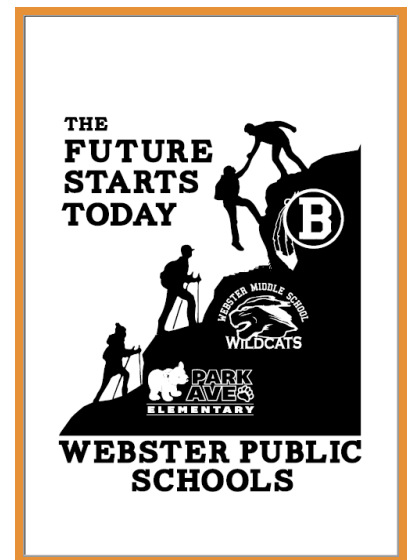
1. **There will be no food distribution centers open on April 10th, due to it being Good Friday, BUT additional food packages will be distributed on April 9th at all our food distribution centers.**
2. **We will be abiding by the approved school year calendar and there will be no remote learning during the week of April 20-24.** While no one will be traveling due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this time off will allow for our own staff to rest, take care of themselves and their families.
3. Our food distribution centers **will be open** during the April 20-24 break.
4. **Report Cards for 3rd quarter for WMS & BHS will be uploaded on Powerschool after April 8th for students and parents to view.** Students have been given the opportunity to make up work for grades through March 12th, when school closed down.
5. **Special Education Progress Reports will be sent to families after April 8th.**
6. **It is a priority that our middle and high school students take proper care of the Chromebooks they are borrowing.** These district devices are valuable resources and we cannot easily replace broken screens or do repairs at this time. **We know our students are responsible and remind them these are for school work and they must be stored and treated properly.**

Resources & Information

1. Ms. Nieves, the School Liaison from YOU Inc. is available to talk to students and families in the mornings. She can be reached by calling **508-909-7584** or through email **NievesCarvajalM@youinc.org**
2. Please see the FDA alert on EpiPens – attached.
<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-alerts-patients-and-health-care-professionals-epipen-auto-injector-errors-related-device>
3. Please see the Family Resource Flyer for all families
4. **FOR FIRST RESPONDER FAMILIES ONLY.** The Department of Early Education & Care has designated the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley as an emergency child-care site for first responders, hospital personnel and essential workers. They are providing FREE childcare to children (ages 4 - 14) to first responders, hospital personnel, and essential workers. Their hours of operation are Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. They provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks each day. Parents can contact them at **executivedirector@bgcwebsterdudley.org** or **(508) 943-0037**, for more information, to arrange for a tour or enroll their child(ren) for emergency child care.

5. Ms. Marchand, the Town Recreation Director has reached out to me to see if our students would like to contribute to **spreading a little joy** in town by coloring a paper Easter egg and displaying in their windows for those who drive by to see. I told her ...
Of course students would like to spread some joy! Let's help out and post Easter Eggs in the windows of our houses!

In closing, I understand there are still so many unknowns and unanswered questions with this pandemic. Governor Baker closed schools to May 4th, and it is possible that this could be extended given the dramatic increases in COVID-19 cases we are seeing in Massachusetts. This is a crisis and **I urge students, staff, and families to put their emotional wellbeing and safety first and foremost**. Please keep safe. I deeply miss seeing our students and staff, and I am sending along my biggest smile and best wishes to everyone. Stay strong and positive!



In Webster ... Kindness Matters!

Dr. Ruthann Petrino-Goguen Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools