

Superintendent Goguen's NEWSLETTER

March 27, 2020

Dear Students, Staff, and Families

This is certainly an unprecedented time for all of us.

Everyone's daily routines have completely changed in just two weeks time, and I am very pleased with how quickly we establish daily structures for ongoing learning and communication with our students and families. We immediately set up office hours for everyone between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and we continue to ask students and families to use email with questions they may have.

It is my sincere hope that over the past two weeks, all of our students and families have seen and felt the outpouring support from our district. There has been an increase in communication coming from the district, administrators, and all our teachers!

Our teachers have been incredible during this crisis and they continue to communicate and send enrichment activities home daily to our students. We have a number of academic resources posted on our website www.webster-schools.org and we continue to add to this list. WGBH will be airing fun learning lessons on television and we ask families to monitor that for upcoming events for our students to participate in.

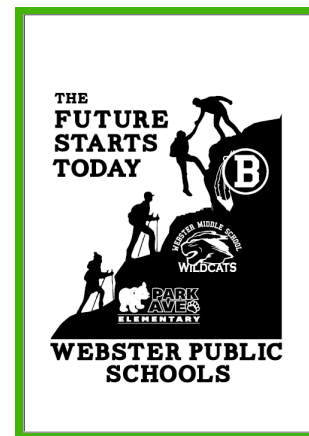
I want to continue to stress safety during this extended school closure. Please follow the CDC guidelines an Governor Baker's Stay at Home Advisory:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

<https://www.mass.gov/news/governor-charlie-baker-orders-all-non-essential-businesses-to-cease-in-person-operation>

On March 25th, Governor Baker declared all schools would remain closed until May 4th. At which time, we will reassess the safety of our students, staff and families and make a decision.

On March 26th, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education released some guidelines for *remote learning*. It is important to note, "**Remote learning is not synonymous with online learning.**" Remote learning incorporates a multi-sensory approach, project-based learning and creatively designing learning opportunities that connect to our students' everyday lives.



In reviewing the Commissioner's guidance, I am pleased to share that we have already established the components of a remote learning schedule:

- 1) **Opportunity to connect with one or more educators multiple times per week.**
 - a. We have daily structures in place and all teachers (classroom, unified arts, special educators, academic interventionists, EL teachers, etc.) to send out enrichment activities to all students (M-F 9:00 to 1:00)
 - b. We have daily opportunities for direct communication with students and families using a variety of tools, email, phone, Class DoJo, Google Classroom, Google Meets (M-F 9:00 to 1:00). Note: School nurses, counselors, school psychologists are also reaching out and are available daily for support.
- 2) **Access to multiple hours per day of academic content directed by educator**
 - a. We have daily structures in place and all teachers (classroom, unified arts, special educators, academic interventionists, EL teachers, etc.) to send out enrichment activities to all students (M-F 9:00 to 1:00)
 - b. We have daily opportunities for direct communication with students and families using a variety of tools, email, phone, Class DoJo, Google Classroom, Google Meets (M-F 9:00 to 1:00). Note: School nurses, counselors, school psychologists are also reaching out and are available daily for support.
- 3) **Time each day for physical activity based on recommendations from educators**
 - a. Unified Arts teachers are sending home enrichment based on the existing schedule students would have had if we were in school. (M-F 9:00 to 1:00)
- 4) **Additional daily time for enrichment activities such as the arts**
 - a. Unified Arts teachers are sending home enrichment based on the existing schedule students would have had if we were in school. (M-F 9:00 to 1:00)

Our outreach has two important goals:

- 1) To maintain a social emotional connection and ongoing support system for our students
- 2) To provide students with daily enrichment learning opportunities and to provide families with grade level appropriate resources from which they can also draw from to keep our students motivated and engaged in their learning (located on our website www.webster-schools.org)

It is important to recognize that we are working on an entirely new realm of providing learning supports for our students from afar. This is a learning curve for everyone, students, parents, caretakers, grandparents, teachers, staff and administrators alike. Thank you for your ongoing patience.

As we navigate this new arena of remote learning, we are bound to get better at it! As always, we will continue to keep the lines of communication open and ask that you reach out with any questions.



In Webster...Kindness Matters,

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