

# *Superintendent Goguen's* **NEWSLETTER**



March 20, 2020

**Dear Webster Families,**

It is hard to believe we have been out of school for one week, and it's even harder to understand how quickly the complexities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are impacting each one of us, our families, and our daily routines.

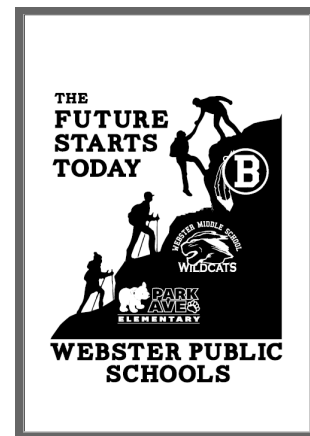
As we pay witness to the increasing numbers of cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, it's important to note, we do not have a confirmed case in Webster yet. While this may make us all breathe a little easier for a moment, I urge everyone to take the COVID-19 pandemic seriously and continue to follow the CDC guidelines of social distancing, hand washing and staying home.

It is my hope over the past week, our students and families have been able to see that the Webster School Community is working as a united team to ensure we maintain a remote connection with our students and families during this school closure. Our teachers, counselors, special educators, EL teachers, academic interventionists, nurses, and school psychologists, are attempting to maintain contact with students by sending home enrichment activities, and by having daily office hours (Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) to communicate with students and families. This is being done in an effort to keep students educationally motivated and emotionally supported. If you have not had someone connect with you over this week, I urge you to reach out to building principals through email. At this time, enrichment activities are not being collected or graded, but that could change if an extended statewide school closure occurs. Along with other superintendents across the state, I am in contact with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Commissioner of Education on these issues.

Our priority continues to focus on supporting our students from afar to the best of our abilities. I want to compliment our teachers, staff, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, custodians, and administrators, for all the work that has been done in just one week in the Webster Public Schools to support our students.

## **Daily Office Hours:**

We have put in place a district wide structure for everyone to have remote office hours from 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. for students/families to reach out to us.



## **Resources:**

1. We continue update our website [www.webster-schools.org](http://www.webster-schools.org)
2. Please see the attached latest document from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on resources and guides.

## **Food Distribution Centers:**

Our food distribution centers are outside-drive thru/or walk thru centers, and we have them at all three of our schools, PAE, WMS and BHS. There is also one set up outside of the Community Center at North Village. These centers are open Monday thru Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., to anyone under the age of 18. Packages include breakfast and lunch and families can go to any site that is closest to you.

## **Students with Special Needs:**

While school is not in session, we are committed to working with families of students with special needs. Along with enrichment activities to support the continuity of learning for all students, special education staff will work with grade level teachers to provide suggestions on appropriate activities and readings, as well as suggested on-line resources, for our students with special needs. We will be asking our related service providers to provide suggestions for home-based activities in order to support the maintenance and continuation of skill building. Your child's liaison will be in touch electronically with you to check in on how your child is doing or answer questions you may have.

Webster is a strong community and it is paramount that we continue with our united efforts to maintain social distancing by staying home. While staying home may be challenging for many of us, I believe we can find ways to de-stress by listening to good music, telling funny stories, drawing, playing board games, watching funny movies, exercising, and reading for fun.



In Webster...Kindness Matters,

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