March 30, 2020

Good afternoon,

A short while ago Governor Wolf ordered an extension of the stay put order through April 30, 2020, for several counties in Pennsylvania including Erie County. In addition, all public schools are closed until further notice. The North East School District will continue the education plan currently in place for virtual learning. We hope today went well for our North East students. If you need help accessing Google Classroom, please visit the district website at nesd1.org for instructions. The March 23rd parent letter has the help desk contact information as well as contact information for all administrators (I have attached a copy below for your convenience).

We will continue to keep you posted as we move through these uncharted waters. Thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent
March 23, 2020

Dear North East Family,

On behalf of the Board, administration, teachers, and staff, we wanted to thank you for your patience as we navigate through these uncharted waters. Although these times may be challenging, we hope you have had the opportunity to spend some time with your family. There are still many unanswered questions; however, we just received word that the Governor and the Secretary of Education extended the mandatory school closures through the week of April 6th anticipating students returning the week of April 13th.

Thus being said, beginning Monday, March 30, 2020, the district will implement virtual classrooms through our district’s Google Classroom. The Google Classroom app can be downloaded to Smartphones, tablets, iPads, or can be accessed from any computer. We are asking that you be patient, flexible, and supportive as we transition to this platform during the mandatory shutdown. All students in grades 3 through 12 currently have a login and should be familiar with the Google Classroom platform. If your child forgot their password, please email your building administrator(s) listed at the bottom of this letter.

Students in grades K-2 will be provided with a district email account and instructions in order to access Google Classroom that is being mailed today.

Although we believe that in person instruction is the most effective; the administration and teachers have been working hard to develop rigorous academic virtual lessons to deliver to your children during this time. The students will be provided with “real-time” instruction and videos created by their classroom teachers. The students will also be asked to submit assignments through the Google Classroom. We will have support available to your children to answer any questions they may have.

Please note that we will not be collecting paper documents/assignments at this time. Again, most students are familiar with navigating the Google Classroom platform.

During this time, it is important to create a learning environment in the home. Listed are a few tips:

1. Set daily routines
2. Designate a space specifically for learning
3. Keep learning space free from distractions (cell phones, video games, TV)

We have been working hard to ensure our families have access to technology. We will be contacting families this week that indicated on the parent survey the need for access. If you are not contacted by Thursday, April 2nd, please email the technology department at helpdesk@nesd1.org.

"The Mission of the North East School District is to challenge, empower, and engage all students to develop and achieve personal and career aspirations, to pursue lifelong learning, and to be responsible and accountable citizens in a dynamic world."
If you have any questions, please reach out to:

High School:  Dr. William Renne – wrenne@nesd1.org  
Mr. Nathan Otis – notis@nesd1.org

Middle School:  Mr. Greg Beardsley – beardsle@nesd1.org  
Dr. Steve Karns – skarns@nesd1.org

Intermediate:  Mr. Brian Emick – bemick@nesd1.org

Davis Primary:  Dr. Jenny Ritter – jritter@nesd1.org

Special Education:  Mrs. Brianne Hodges:  bhodges@nesd1.org

Technology:  Mr. Tyler Wilson – twilson@nesd1.org  
Mr. Peter Zielinski – pzielinski@nesd1.org

Superintendent:  Dr. Michele S. Hartzell – mhartzell@nesd1.org

If you need meals for next two weeks (March 30th through April 9th), please sign up by Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The form is located on the district website. Pick up will be from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Parents, please fill out for your children as we had over sixty meals that were not picked up last week.

Again, we appreciate your patience and understanding while we all take on this new adventure. Please continue to visit the website at nesd1.org as we will continue to provide updates on our district website page.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent

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