



OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Sailing Towards Success”

March 23, 2020

Dear Oxford Public Schools Parents and Guardians,

As I send you this letter, we are witnessing our state and the nation exercise more and more restrictions to our daily routines and to workplaces in order to combat the spread of COVID-19. Life as we know it will continue to look different for the immediate future. While we can deal with having to spend time physically removed from our work, our friends, from eating out and shopping (other than for groceries), we cannot replace you! So, before I share some important information, I wish to urge all of you to heed all the safeguards and warnings and most of all to continue to practice social distancing.

First, I'd like to share some new information. This morning all schools posted a link on their website for **Enrichment Learning Packets**. (At OHS, packets will be made available via individual teachers.) In addition, classroom teachers will be available daily Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon to answer any questions or to provide supports, as needed, to students and/or parents/guardians. The work provided for the next few weeks should enable students to review skills and concepts and, in general, to enhance and extend prior learning.

Further, I also encourage you to peruse the school and district websites for supplemental links to additional free online services that are being made available to school districts from companies across the nation. These range from free broadband and Wi-Fi access to links for free AP Prep programs or to online curriculum. Principals, classroom teachers, and specialists will be posting these links on our websites and/or sending them to their students directly. Many of these websites provide additional supports that parents/guardians may utilize with their children. Additionally, other professional specialists will be reaching out to parents as needed to check-in on the social and emotional well-being of students. Special education professional staff will be providing therapy services packets to students as indicated in student learning plans. In some instances to meet deadlines, Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings will continue to be scheduled “virtually” by the two district Evaluation Team Leaders.

Now for the following reminders:

- All schools and school grounds are closed effective **March 23rd until April 7th**. Only custodians will be in buildings to begin deep cleaning the facilities.
- In addition, with the Governor's new directive issued today, Central Office will also be closing **March 24th until April 7th**. Staff will be working remotely and checking emails daily so you may still contact any Central Office staff member or department with your questions.

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The Oxford Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, homelessness, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, or limited English proficiency.

- As a reminder, the district will continue to operate its “**Grab and Go**” **breakfast and lunch meals** for pick-up while schools remain closed. Cafeteria staff will be at **OHS only between 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Monday-Friday. ALL** students who reside in Oxford and who are 18 years of age or younger are eligible. Parents/Guardians/Students are requested to drive up to the front door of the high school where staff will meet you outside under the overhang to provide you with meals.

Should you need to access them, the following are some links to state and federal websites with detailed information on COVID-19:

- **Massachusetts Department of Public Health:** <https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>
- **Centers for Disease Control:** <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>
- **Keeping Workplace, Home, and School Safe:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

Finally, while we do not know how long school districts will be closed beyond early April, as time goes on, all of us experience more self-imposed isolation. Coping with these uncertainties can prove to be extremely difficult for children, especially younger children. To this end, I am attaching a letter with some strategies/tips from Maria Trozzi, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, psychotherapist and grief and resilience specialist. I hope that you find them useful in offering you some guidance in talking with your child/children in the upcoming weeks.

Please stay safe and healthy!

With warmest regards,

Kristine Nash

Dr. Kristine E. Nash
Acting Superintendent

Attachment