



PHILLIPSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gregory A. Troxell, Ed.D., Superintendent

April 3, 2020

Phillipsburg School Community,

I'll be the first to admit, the past few weeks have been very HARD. But we have been able to work together to create a distance learning system, to make sure our families have access to breakfast/lunch, while continuing to promote the health and wellness of our community during this quickly changing situation. None of this would have been possible without your patience, resilience, understanding and support during these unprecedented times. I have seen incredible strength, caring and understanding in our community. Each of you has come together to support all our learners and one another. This has been wonderful to see and it has given me tremendous hope that we will be stronger in the end. On behalf of the entire Phillipsburg Board of Education - **THANK YOU, again, for everything thus far!**

There still seems to be some questions about the reopening of schools. I want to be very clear that the decision to reopen schools lies squarely with Governor Murphy based on public health and safety experts. Moreover, all superintendents in the State have been asked to refrain from speculating or announcing school reopening dates unless directed to do so by the Governor. So, at this point, I will continue to state that the Phillipsburg School District is closed until further notice. Again, the notice to reopen schools will come from the Governor's Office.

At this point, I know that many families and staff are relying on spring break to rejuvenate, rest and recharge. To that end, the district will honor the previously scheduled spring break, which is as follows:

- Thursday, April 9th
- Friday, April 10th
- Monday, April 13th

I encourage families to continue using any learning resources available during this time but please know remote instruction will not be taking place these three days. Our teachers will be ready to continue remote instruction on Tuesday, April 14th. During spring break, I would normally encourage families to focus on spending time together and to enjoy one another. I'm still going to encourage you to do so. From reading together to taking walks

(away from others), there are many ways to spend time with one another, even while remaining responsible. It is more important than ever to make sure our students are not spending too much time watching TV, playing video games and/or on an iPad / device. I know this is an easy thing to do when everyone is trapped in the house.

Most importantly, please note, that **during our spring break, breakfast / lunch will continue to be available to students from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM at the Phillipsburg Middle School or ECLC.** This is for ALL STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

Please remain encouraged and strong through the next few weeks! We will get through this together...apart.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gregory A. Troxell".

Gregory A. Troxell, Superintendent of Schools
Phillipsburg School District