



March 13, 2020

Dear Grove City Area School District Families and Staff,

At 3:00 today, school districts in Pennsylvania were notified that Governor Wolf has officially announced that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools will be closed for 10 business days, effective Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27. Additionally, President Trump announced a National State of Emergency. During this mandated closure, Pa Department of Education has notified schools that only essential personnel are permitted in school buildings. Secretary Rivera has defined essential personnel as custodial/maintenance staff, for deep cleaning, and technology staff in order to keep information flowing. Administrative staff are only to enter buildings as strictly necessary.

With this recent and official act of both State and Federal government, schools now have the official acknowledgement that no school district will be penalized if it fails to meet the 180-day requirement. To ensure that all Grove City Area School District students are provided with an equitable system of supports for continued education, **if closures are necessary beyond the current 10 business day requirement**, district officials will be coordinating needs-based supports for remote learning, provisions for free and reduced meal distribution, and adaptations for delivering special education services.

Beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, the 10 business day school closure will be designated as the full cancelation of all school classes and activities. As such, students will not be obligated to participate in coursework and no extracurricular activities will be permitted on school property. Updates to all students and families will be provided through our Blackboard Connect system and posted on the front page of the District website.

To Faculty and Staff,

I ask that you regularly check your Google email over the weekend to receive important information related to faculty and staff instructions. At this time, we are still receiving information from our partner agencies that will help us determine the critical needs of the district.

To Parents/Guardians,

It is most important that we all do our best to reassure our children that this time at home is an effort to keep them safe and secure. I assure you that the GCASD family of educators will be making every effort to connect through our digital systems to further develop resources to support our students if they remain at home for an extended period of time. The district has attempted to collect data to identify households that need support to establish internet connections or obtain the technology hardware that might be needed to receive remote instruction. As we identify households that need device support, the district will coordinate the delivery of Chromebooks or laptops. Furthermore, if your family, or if you know of a neighbor in need, can benefit from technology support, I suggest that you review the following:

In response to coronavirus, Comcast offers 2 months of free Internet to low-income customers

New customers will be sent a free self-install kit that includes a cable modem with a WiFi router. There will be no term contract or credit check and no shipping fee, the company said. To sign up for the service, visit the Internet Essentials website or call 1-855-846-8376 for English speakers and 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

I want to offer my sincere gratitude for the patience and understanding of our entire community as we grapple with this ever changing crisis. Over the coming weeks I suspect that we will be challenged with an unprecedented set of difficult circumstances. That said, I am grateful that we are all blessed with the Grove City Area Community as our family to support one another through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Finch

GCASD Superintendent of Schools