



March 12, 2020

GCASD Families,

We want to take a moment to update our community in relation to COVID-19 (coronavirus) and ongoing preparation/proactive measures that are being taken as a district. At this time, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the region, county, or district but still believe preparation is important. Today, we distributed a technology access questionnaire to all students in grades K-12 with the expectation that students in grades 6-12 could complete this on their own, while students in grades K-5 will be bringing this form home for your review. This technology access questionnaire has been sent to simply provide the District with information related to students' access to technology, in the home, in the event that our district is required to enact a period of school closure. Decisions to temporarily close school are not taken lightly. The district administration and District Core Safety Team will be relying on guidance from the State Department of Health (DoH) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in order to make informed decisions related to this situation. In light of the closures that we are observing across the nation, we are working to prepare strategies for the remote delivery of educational programs to our students. Communication between students and faculty may include the use of Google Classroom, email, phone, and other technology platforms. Today's questionnaire is just a part of that planning so that we can prepare support for those that might need technology-based assistance.

In the meantime, the district has taken additional steps to thoroughly clean and disinfect our schools. The safety, health, and welfare of our students and staff is our top priority each and every day. We are uncertain of what the coming days and weeks will bring, so the development of a flexible plan is extremely important.

As we learn more information from the DoH and PDE, we will provide an update to our entire school community. You can expect information to come through our Blackboard Connect system sometime between tomorrow and the end of the weekend.

Again, this notification is not intended to incite fear or angst, it is simply designed to keep you informed.

Here are a few steps that are recommended as we all plan for a potential closing:

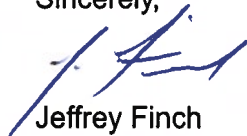
1. If your contact information (phone number and email) has changed and not been updated since the beginning of the school year, please update this information as soon as possible.

2. Consider what arrangements may be needed in preparation for your child to be home for an extended period of time.
3. If school closing becomes necessary, reassure your children that this is temporary and that our entire community is committed to their safety.

Any specific health concerns should be directed to your family physician or healthcare provider. Anyone who will be traveling in the coming weeks may also want to take note of the CDC's travel advisory at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. More information on the coronavirus is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

If asked to close by the DoH, it will be new territory for us all. If the situation rises to the level of any closure, we will contact parents immediately and begin the implementation of our plan. Patience, flexibility, communication, and overall cooperation during this time will be incredibly important.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Finch