

March 16, 2020

Dear SBRSD School Community,

This morning, Superintendents met with the Commissioner of Education to receive more guidance on where we stand as we deal with the impacts of the school closure and the spread of the Coronavirus disease.

We would like to share that the Southern Berkshire Regional School District meal program will provide an opportunity for families with school aged children 18 and younger, to obtain breakfast and lunch at no cost while school is closed. Meals will be available Monday-Friday from 11am-1pm at Undermountain Elementary School entrance starting Tuesday, March 17th. Each child will receive one lunch and one breakfast for the next day. All meals will meet or exceed USDA nutritional requirements. For the safety of our staff, we ask that you please observe the one-way traffic pattern. Please contact Jeremy Wells, Director of Food Services, at meals@sbrsd.org or 413-248-0727 to let him know how many meals are needed in order to be adequately prepared to meet the demand. We are working with other community partners to be able to provide deliveries to those families who can not get here in that time frame to pick up meals. Please inform the Director of your need for delivery when you call or email. Also, community partners are attempting to put together additional family resources, and we will communicate additional information on how to access these as soon as we have it.

There have been many inquiries regarding online learning opportunities for students. As of right now, school districts are advised, consistent with the Governor's Order, to consider access to alternative learning opportunities (*enrichment opportunities only*) during the mandated school closures. SBRSD's

plan is to do just that, provide families with activities to engage students in learning during the break, as a way to augment the learning experience while away from school. The Commissioner will be releasing a letter to all families sometime this week explaining their position and DESE will be providing a FAQ to help answer the overwhelming number of questions we all have. As of now, the frequent response given is that we will be updated with advisories in the next several days. I will in turn share information with you.

SBRSD plans to release enrichment resources to families by the end of this week. In an effort to be as accommodating as we possibly can, the District will make available all the laptops we have to families who do not have access one at home. We can only offer one laptop per family. For those families who need a laptop, please reach out to our Technology Director, Chris Thompson, at cthompson@sbrsd.org. Mr. Thompson will be available for families to pick up the school issued device at the Undermountain Elementary School Entrance on Thursday, March 19, 2020 from 11 am to 1pm, and from 4 pm to 6 pm.

As always, I will continue to provide any resources or additional information that comes our way. Please continue to practice social distancing and taking care of each other.

Sincerely,

Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent of Schools