



# Granby Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

**Sheryl Stanton, Superintendent of Schools**

Phone: 413.467.7193 ~ Fax: 413.467.3909

Email: [sstanton@granbyschoolsma.net](mailto:sstanton@granbyschoolsma.net)

Dear Families,

March 16, 2020

Governor Baker announced the closure of all Massachusetts' public and private schools through April 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information regarding Governor Baker's response to COVID 19 and other emergency orders, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>. This is an extension of our closure by one week. However, as has been the case, the situation is extremely fluid and changing on a daily, if not hourly basis. We are writing this letter to provide some additional information regarding the closure, things you can do to keep your families healthy and safe, and how we are working to provide learning experiences to keep our students in the learning mindset over the coming weeks.

## **What can we do to prepare for COVID 19?**

In last night's address, Governor Baker declared emergency orders establishing social distancing procedures. This includes keeping six feet from others, limiting exposure to groups over 25, and continuing to practice the habits of washing hands regularly, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if you are sick. The CDC has many resources for preparing for COVID 19 and keeping yourself and your families healthy and safe during this time. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/index.html> for more information. In addition, please read the following information regarding social distancing recommendations when schools are closed.

[http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/php/185/185\\_factsheet\\_social\\_distancing.pdf](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/php/185/185_factsheet_social_distancing.pdf)

## **GPS Plans for support in the following areas:**

### **Digital Support and Internet Access**

We are currently establishing procedures and updating our network infrastructure to allow for school devices to be used outside of our schools. There are federal mandates which require our network and devices meet standards for internet safety should devices be taken home. While we were working to implement these changes for the upcoming school year, we have shifted our timeline to purchase required network upgrades immediately and support students who do not have either internet or

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**Mission** We believe that relationships matter. We believe in the promise of every child, in the purpose every child brings to learning, and in the passion every child possesses. We believe that learning is about the growth of all aspects of the child - social, emotional, physical, and intellectual.

*The Granby Public Schools strives to provide a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment in which all students can thrive and succeed in its schools. The Granby Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or homelessness and ensures that all students have equal rights of access and equal enjoyment of the opportunities, advantages, privileges, and courses of study.*

devices to complete work in the online/digital content environment. We hope to have this implemented by the end of the week. If you need internet access or devices so that your child can complete assignments in the online environment, please reach out to your building principal. We will provide more information specific to distribution of devices within the week. We will also provide information to access the internet that has recently been made available.

### ***Food Instability Support***

We recognize that many families rely on our food services to provide healthy, nutritious meals for our students. In addition, many families are relying on our Granby to Go program for supplemental food supplies. Currently, the Governor and DESE commissioner are working to provide flexibility for school districts with less than 50% of students receiving free and reduced breakfast and lunches the opportunity for reimbursement of meals we provide during this period of closure. Until we receive more information on this reimbursement, Granby to Go will be providing additional food drops for families in our program. At this point, we will be delivering food once a week. Our paraprofessionals are working in the program to help pack and deliver food. If you are not currently participating in Granby to Go but need support in providing healthy meals for your family, please reach out to the Granby to Go program at [granbytogo@granbyschoolsma.net](mailto:granbytogo@granbyschoolsma.net) or [njenks@granbyschoolsma.net](mailto:njenks@granbyschoolsma.net).

### ***Working with teachers in the online environment***

Our goal over the next three weeks is to keep all students in the learning mindset and continue, as much as possible, in providing learning experiences and assessments to ensure learning in the curriculum. It is very important that you help establish the routines that students are accustomed to in our classrooms, as students are learning at home. This stability of routine provides a sense of normalcy for our students. If you have any questions or concerns about accessing learning resources and activities, please reach out to your child's teacher and principal so your concerns can be addressed. Many teachers have established new phone numbers (google or zoom) to communicate with you during this time. Also, you may receive a call from a restricted number as staff may be using \*67 if communicating from private home/cell numbers. Please do not hesitate to use these phone numbers and our regular email accounts to continue communicating about your child's learning.

### ***Providing health updates to nursing staff***

Just as if your child was sick at school, it is important to provide our nursing staff with updates on any changes to your child's health. Open communication will be essential in determining community spread of COVID 19, levels of influenza, and general health related concerns as we make decisions in the coming weeks. Please use the following email to communicate with our nursing staff to communicate updates relative to your child/family's health. [nurses@granbyschoolsma.net](mailto:nurses@granbyschoolsma.net).

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Thank you for your continued patience as we navigate the changing landscape regarding COVID 19. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building principal or the superintendent's office.

Sheryl L. Stanton  
Superintendent

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