



Sharon City School District

Office of the Superintendent

March 25, 2020

Dear Sharon Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with updated information regarding the ongoing closure of our schools and provide you with current information, as we know it at this time. I also want to thank you for your continued support as we navigate through this unprecedented situation.

1. **Governor Wolf has extended the school closure until Wednesday, April 8, 2020.** At this time we are using Thursday, April 9, 2020 as our target date to reopen, however, this will be completely dependent on the track the pandemic takes during the next several weeks.

2. We are continuing our meal program, providing a grab and go lunch along with breakfast each Monday through Friday. Meals are available to all Sharon residents ages 18 and younger. There is no charge for the meals. Please note that we are adjusting the meal times beginning Monday, March 30, 2020. **Beginning on that day, meals will be served from 11am until 12:30pm.**

3. The District will provide instructional materials designed to offer review and enrichment supports for all students beginning on Monday, March 30, 2020. Our plan for distribution is as follows:

a. **Elementary School packets are to be picked up at the student's elementary school site on Thursday, March 26, 2020 between the hours of 11am and 1pm.** The district will maintain all social distancing and disinfecting protocols during this pick up window. Staff will be present to direct you to the proper pickup site. Families are encouraged to pick up lunches at this time as well.

b. **Middle and High School packets are to be picked up at the middle/high school on Friday, March 27, 2020.** Once again, we will be following all mandatory social distancing and disinfecting protocols during this pick up. Families with more than one child at the middle/high school should pick up all materials at the same time. Please follow the schedule below to assist in social distancing:

- i. **Grades 7 and 8 will pick up between 9:00am -10:30am**
- ii. **Grades 9 and 10 will pick up between 11:00am - 12:30pm**
- iii. **Grades 11 and 12 will pick up between 1:00pm and 2:30pm**

c. Students in off campus schools (i.e. Crossroads, Pathfinders/Kitestings, St. Stephens, New Horizons, IU4, and Rich Center) will receive their materials from their campus sites. Students working using Edgenuity are to continue with their online work.

Please do not stress over the schoolwork provided in the materials packets. Frustrations are high due to the current circumstances and we don't want to increase the stress on our families. We are providing this schoolwork to keep our student's minds moving forward in preparation for their return to the classroom. Materials are designed to provide work for the next two weeks. We ask that you keep the materials at home to be returned to school upon the student's return.

Note that students at the middle/high school should also continue to utilize any Google Classroom or other online sites that were in use prior to the closure to maintain contact with staff. Those without internet access will continue to use paper copies.

4. There are many questions about how this extended school closure will affect school life in the areas of grades, promotion, graduation and so much more. We are working jointly with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and our District Solicitor's office related to guidance on these issues. As soon as we are provided clear direction, we will keep you updated.

5. PDE has suspended all state and federally mandated assessments for this school year. This includes the PSSA, PASA, Keystone, NOCTI (Career Center) and NIMS (Career Center). Students will continue to be evaluated using classroom assessments and national benchmarks upon their return.

6. The district website (www.sharonsd.org) continues to be the best means of up-to-date information. Please review it often during this shutdown period. We will continue to add links to the website to a variety of free, online web resources that you and your children can use to keep their brains engaged. As you can imagine, many questions arise as we work through this pandemic. We are answering most of these questions through our website, via email and on our social media sites.

In closing, we wish you and your family the very best. Please follow the CDC guidelines using social distancing and disinfecting protocols. Remember, life WILL get back to normal eventually. This is not a time for us to panic. This is a time for us to come together as members of the Sharon Community, as Pennsylvanians and as Americans. We are **#SharonStrong!**

Sincerely,

Michael J. Calla

Superintendent