

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

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5:00 PM

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, and Community Members,

As frequently happens in emergencies, many groups go above and beyond in their response and in the support they provide to others. I would like to publicly recognize the technology department and the technology integrators who support the students and staff in the Cape Elizabeth School Department. These people have worked tirelessly to prepare devices for students and staff to take home, to research educational platforms that are safe and effective for staff and students to use in remote instruction, and to keep our systems and devices up and running as we face the challenge of providing continuity of instruction for our students and communication for our administrators and teachers. Many thanks to Tom Charltray, Jack Duffy, Jonathan Werner, Ginger Raspiller, Carolyn Young, Jason Lund, Matthew Young, Andrea Fuller, Dean Zaharis, Wendy Derzawiec, and Noel Harroff for your amazing support, knowledge, perseverance, dedication, and encouragement as we work through these challenging times.

On Tuesday, March 31, Governor Mills issued a “Stay Health at Home” mandate to begin on April 2, 2020 through at least April 30, 2020. In keeping with that mandate, remote learning will continue through at least May 1, 2020 for students and staff in the Cape Elizabeth School Department. We will also be closing the Department’s campus during this time, except for staff who need to occasionally access materials in order to provide instruction for our students. While I realize that the campus provides the setting for the citizens of Cape Elizabeth to exercise, walk dogs, ride bikes, and many other activities, in order to protect the public health and safety in the face of COVID-19 this decision was made in conjunction with the Town Manager of Cape Elizabeth, Matt Sturgis, and the Chief of Police, Paul Fenton, and in support of the Governor’s mandate to “stay at home at all times unless for an essential job or an essential reason such as obtaining food, medicine, health care, or other necessary purposes.” We would appreciate your support in this effort to keep our community healthy.

I would like to thank the administrators and staff of the Cape Elizabeth School Department for their amazing work during these challenging times. I know that they would rather be back in their schools and classrooms, working with their students, providing meals, taking care of our buildings, working a “normal” day. But they have risen to the challenge of learning new things, doing their jobs differently, and missing the presence of our students. We all look forward to the day when we can be back in our schools, interacting with our students. Hopefully we can focus on the bright spots of life as it is during these challenging times, learn some lessons that we can take forward into our “life after COVID”, support each other, and soon enjoy the day when we are again able to give hugs and handshakes to our families, friends, and neighbors.

Stay well,

Donna H. Wolfrom