

March 16, 2020

Dear ER9 Community:

You will have heard by now that Governor Lamont has directed all schools in Connecticut to close through at least the end of March. We must take into consideration the potential for schools to be closed for a longer period.

As the impact of the Coronavirus unfolds, we are shifting from a short-term closure to preparations for a longer period of having our buildings closed.

The Administration is working on a number of issues that must be addressed in order for us to be granted permission by the State to run our schools via the Internet in what we are calling Distance Learning.

Students and staff would use the Internet to log onto digital classroom space in which teachers would give assignments and present lessons, and students would take direction and complete and upload tasks.

You will receive further communications from ER9 as this week unfolds.

1. Please look for an explanation of the Food Program that will be starting by the end of this week. The Food Service Program will offer drive up-and take-away lunch for students in need. When we get it fully organized, breakfasts will also be offered for students in need. The meal pick-up location will be at the high school only. A separate email will explain details.

2. The Administration will communicate plans to make district Chromebooks available to students who might need to borrow them. We are working to provide Internet access and Chromebooks to the families that have expressed a need, and we are also planning to provide support to families who have Internet access, but perhaps more children at home than computers. Details to follow in a separate email, most likely tomorrow or Wednesday.

3. The Administration is working out the agreements and documentation that we must submit to the State to be granted permission to undertake the Distance Learning approach. We must be approved via a waiver in order to move forward.

4. The thorough cleaning of our buildings has continued and we intend to maintain limited access to the schools. If a family has a compelling need to pick something up from the schools, please call that school's main office in advance to make arrangements. This is for teachers and staff as well as students.

I continue to be grateful to our students, staff, faculty and community as we navigate these unusual times.

Sincerely,

Tom McMorran, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Easton, Redding, and Region 9 School Districts