



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Dear YCSD families and staff,

As I shared yesterday, Governor Ralph Northam has ordered schools to close for a period of at least two weeks as a preemptive measure to slow the spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19.

We know that closing our schools impacts our families who depend on the consistency and predictability of supports and services our schools offer. This is a challenging time for us all, and we recognize that the uncertainty we are facing may be causing our families and staff additional stress and anxiety.

The York County School Division has a multi-faceted plan in place to provide educational activities and lessons for all students, food service resources for families in need, and e-commuting opportunities for staff.

WHAT HOME LEARNING WILL LOOK LIKE

Grades PreK-5: Learning packets in the content areas of English and mathematics have been created for students in grades PreK-5. Later today or by noon tomorrow, principals will share when and how parents can pick up these packets on Monday, March 16.

Grades 6-12: For grades 6-12, alternative learning plans have been prepared in an electronic format for all content areas. These learning activities will be accessible via Aspen by the end of the day Monday, March 16. Those families who have reported a need for a division-issued device to support home learning will be contacted directly with information on when and how the devices can be collected.

All teachers will be providing parents and students with information on how they can be reached and when they will be available to provide student support for home learning. Please note that the alternating day schedule due to the Grafton School Complex closure has been suspended temporarily and all schools are considered to be on a continuity of learning plan Monday through Friday.

STUDENT MEDICATIONS & BELONGINGS

Parents are asked to contact their schools to make arrangements to collect medications or personal belongings critically essential to support learning at home. This collection opportunity will only be available Monday, March 16.

STUDENT MEALS

The division will be providing "Meals-to-Go" bags to any students in need of breakfast or lunch. The Meals-to-Go bags will include enough food for multiple days and will initially be distributed on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm in the parking lots of Magruder Elementary School, York High School and Tabb High School, beginning March 16.

EMBRACE	•	ENGAGE	•	EMPOWER
Mark J. Shafer District 1		Brett Higginbotham District 2		Laurel M. Garrelts District 3
				James E. Richardson District 4
				Sean P. Myatt District 5

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER TWO WEEKS

The current plan would allow students and staff to return to previously existing school schedules on Monday, March 30. Please note that this is subject to change as this is an evolving situation and we do not yet know what impact COVID-19 may have in our community in the coming days and weeks.

Additional information has been posted to our FAQ page on the division website. If you have questions we have not yet addressed, please send them to the AskYCSD account and we will post updates on our FAQ site.

As you know, things are changing rapidly, so we should be prepared to have status changes at any time. I urge you to check the division website and social media channels frequently for updates in the days and weeks ahead.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, please remember that these are unprecedented times. We are in a national state of emergency. It is also important we consider advice from medical experts, specifically the CDC, which is that during this closure we continue to practice social distancing and not plan gatherings or other activities that involve bringing groups of people together. It is even more imperative to take care of yourself and your families during this difficult time. We will get through this, but it will take all of us working together and supporting each other. Please do what you need in order to take care of yourself and your families.

Sincerely,



Victor Shandor, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent

