



North Schuylkill School District

Robert J. Ackell, Ed. D., Superintendent

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April 14, 2020

Dear Spartan Families:

On Thursday, April 9, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf extended his order to close Pennsylvania schools through the end of the academic year. Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera issued a proclamation, under the authority granted under Act 13 of the PA School Code, to close all schools until the threat to health and safety caused by the Pandemic of 2020 has ended. While we have been preparing for this potential outcome for several weeks now, this news is difficult to hear.

I want to begin by reassuring our families that our Continuity of Education Plan is designed to enable us to continue teaching and learning through June 3, 2020. Our teachers are prepared and committed to provide the best instruction possible as they implement our distance-learning plan. We will continue to support our families in every way we can during the challenging weeks and months ahead.

With the knowledge that schools are now closed for the duration of the school year, we turn our efforts more fully toward Phase II. These critical matters include considerations for graduation and more purposeful learning for our students. **Please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for details.**

Many parents of students have concerns about what the extended school closure means for their child's long-term learning. Please know we have already begun discussions on plans and programs to address lost skills when school resumes, as we know this is a reality for many of our students. We realize recuperation of skills may take some time and we remain dedicated to working diligently with your child, both now within the confines of distance learning, and within in the future when we are back with your children in our schools. We are here to work with you toward the common goal of closing any additional gaps that occur in your child's progress because of these school closures.

Perhaps now more than ever, our attention to the social and emotional well-being of our teachers, students, and other members of our community is extremely important. As we adjust to this new normal, it is important to ask for help when we need it, monitor the emotional health of our children and loved ones, and maintain connections with those who are isolated and in need. Resources are available on our website.

Our schools are more than just buildings where students gather to learn. Within our schools, students overcome challenges, learn to make friends, and find their spark. The passion our teachers have for their craft inspires ingenuity, perseverance, and hope. However, over the past few weeks, I am more confident than ever that our students and teachers can and will find new ways to connect and celebrate the joy that comes with learning. School is a beautiful place to be – but the spirit of North Schuylkill Schools is in each of us.

We share in the disappointment that our families feel, but we also know that the most important concern we share is for the health and well-being of those we care about. As we manage this crisis together, we take comfort in the knowledge that our community is united in our support for one another and for those most vulnerable.

Spartan Pride,

Robert J Ackell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Attachment: FAQs



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