

KEYSTONE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 31, 2020

RE: Governor Wolf Announces All Pennsylvania Schools will Remain Closed Indefinitely

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Staff:

At 2:00 p.m. yesterday, Governor Wolf announced that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools will remain **closed for an undefined period of time**. We recognize the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school closures are having on our school communities. While the Governor elected not to provide an “end date” to the closure, **we remain hopeful that schools will resume operations in early May**.

In the meantime, our school district is working to further develop *enrichment and review* opportunities for students and parents. We recognize that many of our families do not have Internet access, personal devices suited for online learning, or enough devices for everyone in the household to access. We also recognize that many families are in crisis. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the physical, emotional, and financial circumstances of many of our district’s residents. First responders and individuals working in the supply chain systems are working overtime, in difficult conditions, to keep us safe and supplied with essential items/services. We understand the immense amount of stress and anxiety that our families are coping with. *Enrichment and review* consists of informal activities that are intended to reinforce or extend students’ prior learning. New standards and skills are not addressed through this type of experience. We understand that many of our students and families are not in a position to equitably benefit from formal teaching and learning in an online environment. Enrichment and review activities are intended to keep students and families engaged with learning, although this material will not be monitored or collected. More information will follow over the next few days.

We are developing plans for all scenarios. People want definitive answers. Will we reopen? What happens if we don’t? **No student will be penalized (more so than they already have been) as a result of this pandemic or our district’s response to this situation**. We understand there are many questions about an extension to the school year. That remains a possibility as it would benefit many of our students and their families who will be looking to return to some degree of normalcy. With that said, we will be responsive to the needs of our seniors, students who have committed to employment, and other personal/family circumstances that wouldn’t allow for significant changes to the school calendar. In short, we understand that all of you will have different needs in the days, weeks and months ahead. We will do our best to be responsive to those needs.

This situation is unlike anything we’ve ever seen before. With that said, this community is strong! The people (including students!) that live and work within the Keystone School District are some of the strongest and most determined people that I’ve ever known. Our community has endured many joys and many periods of despair. We will get through this together. Brighter days *are* ahead! Until then, we remain focused on the health, safety and welfare of our families. You have my continued appreciation for your patience and understanding as we work through many of these challenges. We will continue working to provide accurate, timely information to our school community. Stay well!

Sincerely,

Shawn Algoe, Superintendent