



AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

In Pursuit of Excellence

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

March 23, 2020

Dear Families of the Akron Central School District:

The intent of this communication is to provide you with more information with regard to our plans to support students and families during this period of extended school closure. It is important for you to know that all of our plans, while thoughtfully developed, are subject to circumstances that are beyond anyone's control and may be adjusted according to Executive Orders, State Guidance and new information. We will continue to provide you with timely updates via automated phone messages and letters posted to our website. We ask that you check the website daily.

The ACS Continuity of Service Plan is comprised of three key elements:

- I. Continuity of the Educational Program and Services
- II. Meal Distribution- Breakfast and Lunch
- III. Helping to secure Childcare for Health Care Workers, Emergency Responders and Essential Service Providers

I. Continuity of the Educational Program and Services:

We are committed to providing students with a continuing education. Materials have been prepared for all grade levels in order to provide opportunities for students to reinforce skills and learning that has already taken place in the classroom. In addition, instructional materials and lessons will allow for continuation of the learning process. Teachers will use a variety of methods to engage students in instruction including printed material and online resources. The list of lesson plans, materials and resources that teachers have developed will be posted to the Akron Central School District website, www.akronschools.org.

Given the unique learning characteristics of children across the PK-12 grade spectrum, teachers will choose the most appropriate form of communication that corresponds to their age group, instructional content, and learning needs. We expect that there will be opportunities for teachers to interact through scheduled teacher/student(s) check-ins. Teachers may also send out notifications to students via school email, phone, the Learning Management System (Schoology) as well as other means. Individual teachers will inform students and families on the method of communication that they intend to use. If you have any questions or problems about your child's distance learning experience, please email the teacher or building principal. Our educators are committed to your children and will remain a positive presence in their lives despite our physical separation during this extended school closure.

Internet/WIFI Access

All students have been issued a Chromebook to help facilitate continued learning. We do understand that some families do not have access to the Internet. As a result, our teachers have been mindful of this and have made alternative paper assignments. Please contact the building principal for these alternatives. In

addition, we are exploring potential options for Wi-Fi accessibility and will pass that information along as soon as possible.

Mental and Emotional Health:

Our district student support team of Social Workers, School Psychologists and School Counselors are continuing to contact students on a regular basis. They are available for all students during the school closure. In addition, they can direct students and families to community-based services should there be a need. Please see our website for available resources.

NYS Education Department and College Board Update:

- NYS 3-8 testing has been suspended for the 2019-2020 school year
- At this time, we do not know if the State will require Regents Exams
- College Board has arranged for AP exams to be administered online
- Families of seniors are understandably concerned about graduation. We will communicate information as soon as we learn more from the State Education department

II. Meal Distribution:

Food service workers are working diligently to help meet the nutritional needs of our families. All school-age children are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. As of today, we transitioned from a 5-day distribution cycle to a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule in order to decrease the amount of contact time for staff. Pick up times are 3:00PM - 6:00PM. With this change, the amount of food delivered for the week will not be reduced. In addition, we are working with our community partners to help coordinate access to food pantries and other social services. We intend to provide more information on this soon and appreciate your patience as we work out the details.

III. Child Care:

The Akron Central School District is partnering with Rattles to Reading Child Care, Inc. located at 6263 Scotland Rd, Akron, NY 14001 to provide access to childcare for health care workers, emergency responders and essential service providers while schools are closed. Those who are eligible should contact Terry Zazynski at (716) 542-5437 or email terryz@rochester.rr.com. Please be aware that credentials for employment as a health care worker, emergency responder or essential service provider must be provided upon enrollment. In addition, the District is collaborating with the Emergency Services Coordinator for the Town of Newstead and Village of Akron to assist in securing additional childcare options for eligible families.

As was stated in the opening of this letter, all our plans represent a full commitment to our students and families. We anticipate that there are many questions yet to be answered and that issues will continue to arise that could never have been anticipated. We will do our very best to adapt quickly and effectively. The Akron school community is a special place. We will all need to continue to rely on and support one another through these unprecedented and challenging times.

From all of us here at ACS, we wish you and your loved ones all the best. Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,
Patrick D. McCabe