



Our Children, Our School
Our Future

Netcong Elementary School

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Mrs. Kathleen E. Walsh
Superintendent

Mr. Kurt Ceresnak
Principal

March 25, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to all of our district families with the most recent updates that we have while we are closed for the COVID-19 crisis.

First and foremost, school will continue to be closed until the Governor and other state and local officials determine that it is safe for us to return to school. That said, distance learning will continue through April 9, 2020. Our spring break will commence on April 10, 2020 and run through April 19, 2020. If schools have not yet been reopened at the conclusion of spring break due to the COVID-19 crisis, distance learning will resume on April 20, 2020. I will communicate updates to you regarding school closures and timelines for reopening as I receive them.

Next, the Governor advised that there will be no standardized testing this school year for any students in New Jersey; this includes the NJSLA: ELA Assessment, NJSLA: Math Assessment; NJSLA: Science Assessment; Dynamic Learning Maps Assessment; and, Access for English Language Learners Assessment.

For students participating in our free and reduced lunch program, the following changes are being implemented to ensure the safety of our essential staff:

1. Students needing meals this Friday should report to the school between 9am-11am to pick up breakfast and lunch. Students in need of meals have already been provided meals through Thursday, March 26, 2020.
2. Beginning Monday, March 30, 2020, meals will be distributed on Mondays between 9am - 11am and Thursdays between 9am - 11am. Families eligible for meals under the free and reduced lunch program will be provided with three days worth of breakfast and lunch each Monday and two days worth of breakfast and lunch each Thursday.
3. When coming to the school to pick up your meals, please come to the double doors by the main entrance and wait by the yellow bollards. Our staff will ascertain how many of your children registered at Netcong School need meals. Then, our staff will bag your children's meals and place them on a table outside the double doors. After our staff member is back in the building, you may pick up your meals and go home.
4. The district is looking into how to provide vouchers for students who are eligible to receive meals under the free and reduced lunch program. Once we have more information on this, we will communicate the information to you.

For those families needing internet access at home, Optimum and Altice are providing free internet at this time. You should look for the Optimum-Wifi- Emergency connection on your Chromebook.

Additionally, we recommend that families reach out directly to Altice as they are offering free internet for 60 days and then internet for a fee of \$15 a month thereafter.

If any student in grades K-8 needs to borrow a Chromebook to assist with distance learning, please contact support@netcongschool.org to indicate that you are in need of a device; we will then contact you to set up a time to pick up your Chromebook. It is critical that you let us know if you are in need of a device as soon as possible as we want to ensure you have what you need at home to continue learning. We will work with families to make appointments to pick up devices as needed. Teachers of students in grades K-8 will be looking into supporting students via a variety of online platforms during our extended closure. Thus, we are permitting students in grades K-8 to borrow a device.

As this is distance learning, students are expected to complete work daily that is assigned by their teachers. If you or your child have questions on what has been assigned, please reach out to your child's teacher(s) directly. Students are being held accountable for work that is being assigned as we want to ensure continuity in their education.

Finally, third marking period report cards will be made available in the parent portal on April 7, 2020.

Thank you for all your support and positive feedback as we transitioned to this distance learning platform. Please continue to send us pictures of all the great things that you are doing while learning remotely. We miss all of you and hope to see you soon. Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Walsh', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen E. Walsh
Superintendent