

Winfried Feneberg, CAGS
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Bessette, CAGS
Assistant Superintendent



Lawrence LeBoeuf, BS
Business Administrator

Lawrence Elliott, MEd
Director of Student Support Services

March 16, 2020

Dear Kearsarge Community,

I am writing today to share more information with you about the extended closure of our schools and subsequent shift to remote learning.

On Sunday, Governor Sununu closed public schools until April 3, 2020. This action was taken to provide “social distancing” within communities, and to help slow the transmission of COVID in New Hampshire. This afternoon, the KRSD School Board met and determined that “remote learning” in the district will start on **Wednesday, March 18, 2020**. You will receive communication from each school your child(ren) attend(s) within the next 24 hours to explain detailed schedules, means of communication, information regarding teacher / specialist contact, and other pertinent details.

Please note that procedures and practices relating to “remote learning” may change as we develop and refine these new routines. Be assured that we will make every effort to communicate new information in a timely manner to you and your child(ren).

We understand the impact that this closure will have on our students and families, and have been hard at work preparing to shift from “in-person” instruction to “remote learning.” The following general information is provided to assist you in gaining answers to immediate questions you might have regarding this transition.

All students will continue with their learning. School principals and classroom teachers have been preparing, assembling, and sharing a multitude of learning activities and opportunities for instructional continuity to take place while the buildings are closed. The most important factor to consider is that it may not look like the type of learning that you are used to seeing, as the NH State Board of Education passed an emergency rule on March 12, 2020 allowing remote instruction as each school district “sees fit”. Our expectation is that students will participate earnestly in these creative and innovative activities so that they can continue a learning routine while they are at home. Teachers will be in routine contact with students throughout the remote learning period. Equitable learning opportunities will be provided in observance of individual learning needs, technology accessibility, and learning support.

All students should maintain some type of routine schedule. In order to stave off social isolation and the effects it has on mental wellness, work with your child to maintain a routine for learning. For example, have them wake up at a reasonable hour in the morning, attend to learning through the morning, allow some play time and scheduled time for lunch, and then return to some learning during the early afternoon. School principals will contact you with proposed learning schedules for each individual school your child(ren) may attend. This schedule should help students gain access to their teachers, or to join with peers and teachers in online instruction.

Further, encourage video chats and phone calls with friends and relatives to help keep their social senses robust.

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Students who require assistance with meals will be served. We are working with KRSD Food Services to help address the absence of regular breakfast and lunches for our students, including those who qualify for meal assistance. We will be in touch with more details about the logistics of a temporary meals distribution program shortly.

The SAU office and schools will be closed to all but essential personnel. All SAU and school building office personnel will maintain regular work hours until it becomes necessary to alter that schedule. Please continue to communicate via email with any member of the SAU central office staff that you would normally contact for questions about SAU operations, and please contact your school principal via email for specific, school-related issues and questions.

All schools will be inaccessible without prior appointment. Our school facilities staff will be performing deep cleans of all of our schools using available sanitizers, disinfectants, and other tools to ensure that students and staff will return to a thoroughly scrubbed school or office. In order to accomplish this task, and to limit the building to exposure from the community, building access will be restricted to essential personnel only. Should you need access to the building, please call or email the building principal to arrange for any potential access.

All questions regarding the impact COVID-19 has on the District should continue to be sent to wfeneberg@kearsarge.org. Please direct your questions about this action, impact on the school year, and other related items to the Superintendent.

As of now our target date for return is Monday, April 6, 2020. We will be in continuing contact with all of our families and staff through the period of remote learning with updates and recommendations, and we will certainly work to provide ample notification should our return date change.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Feneberg', written in a cursive style.

Winfried Feneberg, CAGS
Superintendent of Schools