

From: **Kevin Case** <kcase@cantonschools.org>

Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2020 at 2:08 PM

Subject: Distance Learning Update

Good Afternoon,

I hope this message finds you well and your family healthy. As I know you are aware, the Governor has closed all CT schools through March 31, 2020. However, it is possible schools could be closed for a longer period of time. Given the extended period of the closure, we are proceeding with our distance learning plan beginning next **Wednesday, March 25th**. As you know, we sent out a survey to all families to determine whether our students have access to the Internet and a device (laptop, computer, tablet, etc.) from which to work. The majority of you responded and we have a plan to distribute Chromebooks to those students who need a device in Grades 4-12. You will hear from your child's school principal about the details for pick-up, which can occur this afternoon or Monday morning.

You will be receiving additional information from your child's principal and teachers by Monday about specific details about our plans for distance learning. We are excited about implementing the plan as we provide continuity for teaching and learning while schools are closed. As we begin to implement this plan, we know it won't be perfect and we will be improving this as we move forward. We look forward to receiving feedback to improve the plans we have in place.

If your child has 504 Accommodations or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Dr. Murdica, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, will be sending out a communication on how the staff plan to address your child's individual needs. Your child's team of teachers will also be contacting you.

Due to the fact that we are implementing distance learning, our last day of school will be **Thursday, June 18, 2020**. The last day of school for our High School Seniors will be on **Friday, June 12, 2020**. While we are planning the graduation ceremony for this date, it is too soon to determine whether the ceremony will actually be held. Our April break will remain in place, **April 10-17, 2020**.

If your family is in need of food during this school closure, I have attached a flyer listing specific pick-up locations in our area. Unfortunately, due to State guidelines, we are not able to have a food pick-up location in Canton. Please know that if your family is in need of food or any other type of service, please contact Jessica DeMeo, Senior/Social Services Coordinator at 860-930-1625 or me at 860-305-9493 and we will be happy to assist you in a confidential manner.

I also want to assure you that while schools are closed, our custodial crew is doing a deep cleaning in each of our school buildings using cleaners approved by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Once you receive communication from your child's principal, if you have additional questions regarding distance learning or any other school issues, please contact me. We will be developing a FAQ sheet that can be distributed. I will do my best to get back

to you within 24 hours. Please know that our school staff is available to support your children and your families at this challenging time. It is also important during this time to take care of our own mental health. I've attached an article from the Yale University Emotional Intelligence Institute. I hope you find it helpful.

You can look for additional communication from me over the next week. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can serve you in any way. Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation. We will get through this challenge as the strong community that we are!

Stay well!

[managing anxiety](#)

[lunch food](#)

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Case

Superintendent of Schools