

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Excellence and Equity For All Children

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SUPERINTENDENT

Equal Opportunity Employer

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RUDA STONE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT

March 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

School administration and staff will be working this week to prepare educational resources for students. Our goal is to have these opportunities available to students on Monday, March 23. You will be receiving more information in the coming days from your child's principal and teachers regarding plans for continued learning at home. We hope to have this information to you by Friday.

We intend to begin providing food to families on Wednesday, March 18. Each school district will have food offerings for students most likely in a grab and go format. Administration will work with head cooks to put a plan in place for their schools. That plan will be communicated to families by Tuesday evening.

Please remember that closing schools for two weeks on the island is a proactive step to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The intent is to reduce contact between individuals, practice social distancing and minimize the impact on our health care system. If students and families continue to meet together in groups outside of school, this initial 10-day closure will not have the desired result. It is critical that students and families refrain from meeting in large groups as recommended by the CDC.

Remember to practice these CDC recommended everyday preventive measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands)
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick

Regardless of the length of our district closure, DESE guidance indicates that the last day of school for all schools will not go beyond June 26, as originally outlined in the additional five snow days embedded in the 2019-2020 calendar.

I know that this situation has created difficult challenges for our families, and the school district will work with our community partners to provide support. I have included a link below that provides additional information of how to effectively combat COVID-19. Please stay well and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Matthew D'Andrea, LP.D.

<https://medium.com/@ariadnelabs/social-distancing-this-is-not-a-snow-day-ac21d7fa78b4>