



Somerset Public Schools

Somerset Berkley Regional School District

All Students Achieving Excellence

3/31/2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are continuing to stay healthy and are adjusting well during this challenging time. I, as well, continue to adjust to supporting my children's learning at home while working to support our school community as well. It has been interesting and challenging but I am most inspired by how so many have come together to collaborate and support each other and our students during this stressful time. As we have all learned, Governor Baker has extended the school closure through at least May 4th, 2020. In addition, the DESE has provided additional guidance to support districts in providing remote learning inclusive of special education services. Please read the attached information from the DESE. As outlined in this document, districts are working hard to develop educational opportunities to provide a platform for students to continue their learning during the school closure. Special education and related service supports will be provided to your children through the provision of supports and resources as we have over the last two weeks and also through instructional services. These instructional services may come in a variety of forms such as telephonic individual or small group lessons/therapies that may be pre-recorded or live. Special education teachers and related service providers will be contacting you and supporting you through this closure and during this period of remote learning. One of the most valuable resources we can offer is our communication. Our team will maintain open conversation individually multiple times each week to support you and your family. Our special education team can assist with prioritizing the learning opportunities that are sent home, navigating the appropriate accommodations and modifications that are made for each of them, establishing a schedule and meaningful ways to continue face to face service remotely, etc. This is new for all of us so we will work together to support you and your children. We ask for your understanding during this challenging time as we are all learning together while supporting our own families with the resources we have at home as well. This certainly will make us all stronger and I continue to be inspired by our community and how we are collaborating together!

I wanted to share some information pertaining to special education:

- If your child's IEP is set to expire during the closure, the current IEP will be the "stay put" IEP until a new IEP is developed.
- We are looking to hold some meetings virtually at this time and your school's special education facilitator will be reaching out as needed to set these up. You may choose to remain on a stay-put IEP until school resumes or participate in the remote meeting.
- We will not be able to conduct evaluations during the school closure so timelines for these evaluations will be extended.
- Currently our out of district placements are also closed. However, we will closely monitor the status of these schools and work with the involved families as needed to discuss attendance when they open. These placements and teams will also be supporting students through these remote means. If you have not received information from your son/daughter's school team, please let me know and I will assist you.

Again, thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,
Megan Ashton