March 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The East Penn School District remains committed to keeping our students, staff, families and community informed, supported, and most of all connected to our schools in the best way we can throughout this extended closure. Please note the following:

**Academics**

We continue to work diligently to provide continued learning options for students at home under dynamic circumstances.

East Penn continues to provide resources and guidance for voluntary at home learning through April 3. These first phase activities continue to be optional for students, ungraded, and will not introduce new learning.

**At Home Learning Resources**

As we move into April, we will be launching a second phase with more structured, teacher-directed learning that will provide **continuity of instruction for all students beginning April 6th**. With this plan, we are prepared regardless of whether or not the closure is extended again. Teachers will be working together over the next two weeks to plan instruction using online tools and provide new learning with consistent instruction and feedback. As part of phase 2, student work will not be graded and entered into the gradebook; however, participation, progress, and feedback will be documented to ensure continuity of learning.

The decision not to grade in this second phase is important because we recognize that current conditions could interfere with student learning. We want to provide learning and meaningful feedback for students without creating additional challenges and barriers. Further clarification regarding student expectations and feedback will be sent by your building administration.

We are still unsure of the end of the year calendar, but please know that we will do everything we can to ensure seniors who have met their credit
requirements or were in the process of meeting their requirements will graduate on time.

For those students and families in the process of college application, we have communication from colleges and universities detailing their flexibility in deadlines and the composition of transcripts based on this national emergency.

For the rest of our students K-11, The Office of Teaching and Learning is working with teachers over the next two weeks to prioritize grade level standards and learning to make the transition to the next grade level or next course as seamless as possible.

**2019/2020 Standardized Testing and Assessments**
The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced the cancellation of all PSSA testing and Keystone exams for the 2019-20 school year as a result of COVID-19.

**Internet Access and Technology Resources**
As we move toward more online resources, we are being mindful of student needs for technology and internet access. We are working to help ensure all families have equitable access to internet services at home. Several internet service providers in our community are now offering free or low cost internet service to families. Please visit our internet access page for more information:

[Internet Access Resources](#)

We wish to continue to support our students and families with their technology needs during our school closures. Please read through some of our technology troubleshooting tips compiled by the Technology Department, which may assist you with your EPSD-issued device. If you have a persistent issue, please contact [epsdtech@eastpennsd.org](mailto:epsdtech@eastpennsd.org).

[At Home Technology Troubleshooting Tips](#)

**EPSD Grab-and-Go Meal Program**
Throughout the school district extended closure, lunch and breakfast meals will be provided at no cost for all East Penn Students.

All children will be provided with free meals regardless of enrollment and economic status. Meals will be grab-and-go style available for pick-up at or near the entrance of each designated campus. You will need to verify student name and ID# upon pick-up.

**EPSD Grab-and Go Meal Program Pick-up Times and Locations**

**COVID-19 Website**
The East Penn School District launched a COVID-19 website to provide you with up-to-date resources regarding COVID-19 and school closing information.

**East Penn School District COVID-19 Resource Page**

**Calendar Clarification**
Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced that all schools will remain closed through April 6, 2020. On April 7th and 8th, administrators, faculty and staff will be given two days to prepare classrooms, set up cafeterias, schedule transportation and arrange other business operations. Students would then return to school on the third day, Thursday, April 9th. April 9th was listed on the EPSD Calendar as a possible snow make-up day. Due to the closure, school will now be in session on this day. With this being said, there is always the possibility that the closure could be extended beyond the announced dates if necessary.

Please join us in thanking those individuals who have been dedicated to ensuring we are acting in the best interest of our students, staff, families, and community throughout this closure.

- Thank you to the staff who have been cleaning our buildings, feeding our students, distributing technology, and organizing our learning resources.
- Thank you to our teachers who have been preparing for the transition to distance learning throughout our initial closing. Our teachers have demonstrated countless efforts to not only connect with our students
but also to provide kids with engaging opportunities to “keep their brains charged!”

- Thank you to our community for supporting us as we navigate through these uncertain times.

Be safe, stay healthy, and be kind to one another.

Kristen Campbell
Superintendent of Schools