Dear Emmaus High School Students & Families,

We hope this message finds all of our East Penn families doing well. To all of our students - We miss you and are thinking of you during this difficult time! We would like to remind our parents and students that the East Penn continuity of learning plan is launching on **Monday, April 6, 2020.** On Monday, teachers will be reaching out to students to review online learning plans and weekly assignments. We want to thank you for your patience and support over these past few weeks. As we move forward into another phase of learning, please know we are here to support you. *Our building may be closed, but our school is open!*

By now, your child should have “join codes” for the online space in each of their classes. If they do not, please have them email their teachers. If there are any courses for which they are not able to secure the codes by April 6th, please contact the appropriate individual below, who will send them to you:

**Grade 9** - Mrs. Lucchesi-Wood lwood@eastpennsd.org (Administrative Assistant) or Mr. Fortier jfortier@eastpennsd.org (Assistant Principal)
**Grade 10** - Ms. Perone cperone@eastpennsd.org (Administrative Assistant) or Mrs. Thacher jthacher@eastpennsd.org (Assistant Principal)
**Grade 11** - Mrs. Molchan mmolchan@eastpennsd.org (Administrative Assistant) or Mr. Annoni gannoni@eastpennsd.org (Assistant Principal)
**Grade 12** - Mrs. Knerr dknerr@eastpennsd.org (Administrative Assistant) or Ms. Rodriguez trodriguez@eastpennsd.org (Assistant Principal)

New learning activities will be posted by Monday of each week during the closure. They will be available on-demand in an asynchronous format. This means that students are not required to log in at specific times of day to receive instruction, but can complete the learning activities at their own pace at a time that is most convenient for them and your family’s circumstances. All of your child’s teachers will conduct live, virtual office hours every week at scheduled times, during which students can log in to ask questions and get help as needed. Each learning activity that your child submits will be reviewed by the teacher, and your child will receive feedback indicating whether they have achieved the learning objective or whether they need to make adjustments/corrections in order to do so.

The best way to monitor your child’s online schoolwork is to have them log into Google Classroom with you. They will be able to show you what the teachers have posted in each class and what they have submitted.

We recognize that all of the material that would normally be covered in our high school courses cannot be addressed given current circumstances. Teachers have carefully reviewed each course that we offer, and identified the essential content
and skills that must be addressed prior to the end of the school year in order for students to earn credit for their courses and successfully move on to their coursework next year. Learning objectives and work expectations will be consistent in all sections of each course, even those that are taught by several different teachers. Because course content will be modified this year, final exams will NOT be given at Emmaus High School this year.

Teachers of Advanced Placement courses will provide enhanced instruction and materials to best prepare students for the modified AP exams that will be administered by the College Board online later this Spring.

More information about AP courses and lots of other topics not specifically addressed in this letter is included in the FAQ document on our website.

**Seniors**

We know that this closure affects you in ways that are different than students in other grade levels, with graduation on the horizon and so many “Class of 2020” experiences and events scheduled to occur over the next two months. Please check your email on Monday, 4/6 for a separate email from Dr. Kieres specifically for you.

**District Resources**

We understand that many of our family situations have been changing throughout the past few weeks. Information that might have been overlooked a few weeks back might be needed today. Please take a minute to review the resources we have made available to our district during our COVID-19 closure:

**Technology Resources**

As we move toward online learning on Monday, 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.

We wish to continue to support our students and families with their technology needs during our online learning. 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 technology issue, please contact epsdtech@eastpennsd.org.

**East Penn School District FERPA Notice for At Home Learning**

As always, the safety and security of our students and staff is our top priority. Please review the East Penn School District FERPA Notice for At Home Learning.
**Grab-and-Go Meal Program**

**Update** Beginning on Monday, March 30th, breakfast and lunch meals will be provided for pick-up on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at no cost for all East Penn students.

On Monday and Wednesday, lunch/breakfast will be provided along with lunch/breakfast for the following day. On Friday, lunch/breakfast will be provided along with lunch/breakfast for Saturday and Sunday.

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**

**Counseling**

Our school counselors are available to support your child academically, socially, and emotionally during this difficult time. If you would like to speak to a school counselor to help support your child, please email your child's counselor directly. Please view our list of email addresses for K-12 EPSD School Counselors.

Please remember that if you are having an emergency or your child is in crisis, contact Lehigh County Crisis: 610-782-3127 or Safe to Say: 1-844-723-2729 (1-844-SAF2SAY).

For more information regarding the resources available to your student during the COVID-19 closure and online learning, please visit our School Counseling Department Resource Page.

**Nursing Services**

Our Certified School Nurses are available to answer your questions regarding the current health situation we face as a community and the impact it may be having on your child. Our nurses have provided age appropriate resources to their building principals for publication on individual school websites and postings. The nurses also encourage parents and caregivers to reach out to your primary care provider with specific health questions regarding your child.

**Special Education**

Our special education teams will continue to hold IEP/GIEP/MDE/504 meetings via Google Hangout Meet. Students with Disabilities will receive online and
asynchronous learning activities from our special education teachers. For regular education subjects, special education teachers will collaborate with regular teachers to provide additional instructional resources and accommodations to support students. This interim plan is intended to remain in effect only during the period of emergency school closure. The program and placement described in a student’s current IEP will resume when the emergency closure ends.

**Psychological Services**
Our school psychologists are available to continue to support our East Penn students and families. East Penn will continue to issue a permission for three-year evaluations that require a review of records and no additional testing. For the evaluation reports and reevaluations reports for which we have received parent consent on or before March 13, 2020 our school psychologists will be issuing reports that summarize the records and testing completed prior to the school closure. 504’s will continue to be written, revised and updated according to the regularly established timeline.

**Gifted Education**
Gifted Teachers will provide enrichment activities to students and collaborate with content area teachers to provide strategies and resources to ensure that students are learning and challenged. This interim plan is intended to remain in effect only during the period of emergency school closure. The program and placement described in a student’s current GIEP will resume when the emergency closure ends.

**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

Stay home, stay safe, stay well.

Sincerely,

Your High School Administrative Team
Dr. Kieres, Mrs. Gamble, Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Annoni, Mrs. Thacher and Mr. Fortier