March 25, 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.

**Phase 1 (Weeks of 03/16 through 04/03)**

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

[At Home Learning Resources](#)

**Phase 2 (Weeks of April 6th through TBD)**

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. Students need to be aware that the learning being offered online starting April 6th is essential for continuation into the next year’s academic classes. Failure to follow through
with the online learning will put them at a disadvantage when/if we return to school this year or the following year in a new course.

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. Starting April 6th, teachers will be posting direct learning lessons along with independent activities for students to complete on their individual Google Classrooms or another Learning Management System (such as Schoology). If there is a course for which a student does not already have access to an online space, this information will be communicated to the student through district email. If a student does not receive this information by April 6, please contact the building administrator listed below and they will provide the appropriate access code.

6th Grade - Mrs. Yencho - syencho@eastpennsd.org
7th Grade  - Mr. Luckenbill - rluckenbill@eastpennsd.org
8th Grade - Mrs. Slatoff - hslatoff@eastpennsd.org
Exploratory and Related Arts Classes - Mrs. Yencho- syencho@eastpennsd.org

We Are Here for You: Access to School Counselors and Resources
- Guidance Counselor Meeting Request Form
- School Counseling Department Resources

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.

**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**