March, 2020

Dear Shoemaker families,

We hope you and your family are staying healthy during these unprecedented times. The Shoemaker faculty, staff, and I miss all of you and hope you are enjoying the resources and guidance for voluntary at home instruction through April 3.

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.

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.

Elementary students will receive their work and assignments through the communication methods already established between classroom teachers and families (such as: Class Dojo, SeeSaw). Some teachers may utilize Google Classroom to communicate additional information. On Monday morning, April 6th, families will receive a weekly learning template. This template is meant to guide instruction throughout the week and can be completed in a manner that best meets the needs of your family. The template itself will contain specific videos, lessons, and directions from your child's teacher.

As part of phase 2, student work will not be graded; 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.

For our K-5 students, 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 as seamless as possible.

Please see below for various resources available to our students at this time:

If you have a persistent technology issue, please contact epsdttech@eastpennsd.org.

At Home Technology Troubleshooting Tips

Internet Access Resources

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

East Penn School District COVID-19 Resource Page

Special thanks to our food services and facilities teams who continue to work diligently to provide our Shoemaker and East Penn families with daily grab-and-go meals and safe, sanitized buildings that anxiously await our return. Continued thanks to all of you for your ongoing flexibility and support. If we can support you and your families in any way, please let us know. We’re here for you and will continue to be as circumstances evolve.

Warmest regards,
Mrs. Vogel