



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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3/17/20

Dear Thompson Families,

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

I am writing today to provide you with a few updates during this extended school closure period. As you are aware, Governor Lamont has ordered all Connecticut schools to be closed through Tuesday March 31, 2020. Gov. Lamont, along with Commissioner Miguel Cardona, have been holding regular conference calls with Superintendents to keep us well informed throughout this health emergency.

Yesterday, Commissioner Cardona sent out a letter informing school districts that they will no longer be required to make up missed school days beyond the original last day of school approved by the Board of Education. Our last day of school in Thompson is Wednesday June 17, 2020. In addition, the Commissioner is not holding districts responsible for submitting a waiver for distance learning. He wants all educators to focus on delivering instruction as best we can during this school shut down. Please see the attached letter from the Commissioner.

Distance Learning:

Teachers will continue to connect with students and parents to ensure that lessons are being prepared and are accessible. Completion of school assignments is expected, and we are working to determine how they will factor into a student's overall grade. More details regarding distance learning will be forthcoming. The district is waiting to hear more information about a learning program that is being put together at the State level.

If you have any questions about your child's lessons, please contact your child's teacher directly.

- Tumblebook Program – The district has secured a program for TMS and TMHS students to download books directly onto their Chromebooks. The link to gain access to this program is:

<https://www.teenbookcloud.com/autologin.aspx?u=thompson&p=login>

Teachers may assign specific books to read as part of their lessons or students may browse the book titles and read for pleasure.

Students at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School already have access to this site for the past few years. If your child does not have access, please contact your teacher or Mrs. Beltram at Nbeltram@thompsonpublicschools.org.

Meal Service:

The district has arranged for lunch/breakfast pick-up sites at three locations in Town. All students up to the age of 18 are eligible to receive a free breakfast and lunch regardless if they attend Thompson Public Schools. The meal program will begin on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and will continue Monday through Friday until school reopens. A March menu will be emailed out on Wednesday when our cafeteria staff return to school to prepare meals. Lunch on Wednesday will be:

Turkey / Cheese Sandwich, fresh fruit, veggies and milk

Breakfast for Thursday: Muffin, juice, fruit and milk

Thompson Meal Pick-Up Locations:

TEEG 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Thompson Library 11:00 am to 11:45 am

Quinebaug Fire Station 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Lunch and breakfast are free to all regardless of income. We hope that families take advantage of this helpful resource.

I am happy to inform parents that Jill St. Cyr and the donors of "It Starts at Home" have gathered additional wrapped snacks that will be distributed at meal pick-up locations starting on Friday. We are very grateful for this ongoing support from this generous organization.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Education, Administrators, Faculty, and Staff, we hope everyone remains safe and healthy during this unprecedented health crisis. As a reminder, if you or family members show symptoms (fever, cough and/or shortness of breath) of COVID-19, please contact your physician or call 2-1-1 for guidance.

I will continue to keep you updated as new information is released.

Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed., Superintendent