

CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

120 MERIAM ROAD CONCORD, MA 01742 PHONE: 978.318.1500 FAX: 978.318.1537 www.concordps.org

April 13, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Caregivers,

We have entered the second phase of this unparalleled school closure. Special education guidance has been forthcoming and this letter is developed in concert with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), our legal counsel, and the district leadership of Concord Public Schools and Concord Carlisle Regional School District (CPS & CCRSD) respectively.

During school closure, your child is entitled to receive accommodations and services set forth on his/her IEP consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities, teachers, and staff.

CPS & CCRSD will provide special education services through remote instruction and will look different during the period of national and state public health emergencies. We will make every effort to utilize creative strategies, learning resources and check-ins with both students and families to the extent feasible.

You have been contacted by your child's teacher(s), related services provider(s) and/or case manager to discuss what the remote learning plan will look like and have started to establish a schedule. For special education, there is a service plan to coordinate distance learning for our students that will include multiple service providers. This will allow for a more efficient line of communication between you and the staff. Each weekly plan will be conveyed and could include email check-ins, suggested activities, phone check-ins, group activities with other students, and educational resources.

While the district remains obligated to protect students' confidentiality and privacy, remote learning does not allow the district to control who is viewing a lesson, and therefore parents and students should be aware that there is no expectation of privacy. The district's Acceptable Use Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy, including prohibiting cyberbullying, remains in effect, as well as student code of conduct and disciplinary rules.

Some teachers may decide to record themselves and provide the recording to their students. Parents and students, however, may not record lessons. If a parent would like a recorded lesson to review with a student at home, parents should request a recording from the teachers/providers.

As Dr. Hunter has written in many of her communications, these rare times call for flexibility, communication, and understanding. The focus for our special education students is for them to review, be reinforced, apply skills and make connections to those skills. The delivery of your child's services will look different because their school day is shortened, the curriculum or program they are working with may not be conducive to an on-line platform, and the schedule at home is ever-changing.

Collective decisions had to be made and although difficult, we will be providing free and appropriate education to all students using a comparable approach, time, or program for your child.

During this period of closure, I have been continually impressed with the level of caring and professionalism exhibited by all educators, but in particular our special education staff. They are certainly making a challenging situation better and my hope is that you all continue to be supportive of their efforts.

Communication will take place primarily through email. Each case manager should have your email address and if not, please communicate it with them. If your child is at an out of district school, contact the school directly should you have questions regarding school work during the closure. Besides your child's case manager, you may reach out to the building principals at any time:

CPS:

Preschool Coordinator: Janet O'Shea
joshea@concordps.org

Alcott Principal: Naomi Krakow and Vice-Principal: Judith Olson
nkrakow@concordps.org jolsen@concordps.org

Thoreau Principal: Angel Charles and Vice-Principal Sue Howard
acharles@concordps.org, showard@concordps.org

Willard Principal: Matt Lucey and Vice-Principal Christine Price
mlucaey@concordps.org cprice@concordps.org

Out of District Coordinator: Marielle Wintersteen
mwintersteen@concordps.org

Concord Middle School:

Principal: Justin Cameron

jcameron@concordps.org

Team Chairperson

Laura Brande

lbrande@concordps.org

Concord Carlisle High School:

Principal: Michael Mastrullo

mmastrullo@concordcarlisle.org

Team Chairperson

Jared Wickham

jwickham@concordcarlisle.org

Sincerely,

Ruth Grube

Ruth Grube

Director of Student Services

Concord & Concord Carlisle Regional Schools

rgrube@concordps.org