

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

50 East Street

New Milford, Connecticut 06776

(860) 355-8406 FAX (860) 210-4132



Dr. Kerry Parker
Superintendent of Schools

March 13, 2020

Good afternoon Families and Staff,

I feel a deep sense of gratitude to you all for your support over the last week. I appreciate your emails and thank you very much for the positive messages you've sent. I am also grateful for our wonderful team of administrators and building leaders who have spent many hours this week planning for an unexpected closing. Their talents are amazing and everyone is focused on making decisions in the best interest of our students, families, and staff. There is no handbook for this type of situation. Please know our leadership team is focused on communicating with you regularly and providing you the best support we can offer. Today's message is intended to provide you with some logistical information and to hopefully answer some questions you may have.

How long will our schools be closed? While I do not have an exact date for our return, at this time we will be closed through March 27.

Do we have to make up the days missed? Yes, we will be making up the days we do not attend school during this closure, however we will not go to school beyond June 30, regardless of how many days of school are missed. Makeup days at the end of the year will be added on to our current school calendar, but we will not have school past June 30. Spring break is still scheduled for the week of April 13.

How can my child get an essential item left at school? On Monday, March 16, our district schools will be open from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm to allow students and families to come to school to retrieve essential items such as medication, glasses, musical instruments, cell phones, or computers that were left behind on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. Please see the information below for each school.

- New Milford High School and Schaghticoke Middle School
 - Students will be allowed to go to their lockers, PE lockers if necessary, and music rooms to retrieve instruments. Some students might require parent assistance to retrieve their items. If so, this will be permitted. Although unlikely, if items were left in classrooms, access will be handled on a case by case basis and an administrator will escort the student in and out the classroom.

- Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 - Students will be allowed to go to their desk, locker, or retrieve their instruments. In order to accommodate parking and alleviate traffic:
 - Grade 3 students and families should park and enter via the doors closest to the baseball fields in the front of the school.
 - Grade 4 students should enter in the back of the building via the catwalk.
 - Grade 5 students should enter via the main entrance.
- Hill and Plain Elementary/Northville Elementary
 - Administrators will be at the main entrance to meet families and take them to classrooms as needed.

Are students going to have new assignments to do while school is closed that will be graded when they return? No, teachers will not be giving students new assignments that will be graded, but we encourage everyone to maintain their skills during this time. Visit the district website <http://www.newmilfordps.org/> to see a list of educational websites for students. We will continue to add to this list as sources are vetted. If students do not have access to the internet, they are encouraged to read books or write journals. Principals will be sending emails to parents with ideas for non-web based activities for students during the closure. Camella's Cupboard (see below) will have books and journals available for students starting Friday, March 20.

What about my child's Special Education services? If your child has an IEP and receives special education services, every effort will be made to provide you with modified resources you can use at home. The list of possible resources will be grouped according to age and ability level and will be included in upcoming emails. If you have a planning and placement team meeting scheduled within the next two weeks, it will rescheduled.

Is Camella's Cupboard still open? Yes! Camella's Cupboard will be distributing food for students every Friday. The first distribution will be tonight from 5:30-7:00 pm at the back of our NMPS Central Office at 50 East Street. If you have a need, we welcome you! Students will be provided with a bigger bag of food for the week than what is normally distributed. If you have questions, contact Angela@camellascupboard.com or visit www.camellascupboard.com.

How often will we be getting information? We will email each day to provide you with important information or updates.

Please take care, as your health remains of utmost importance at this time. As always, contact me if you have questions or concerns.



Superintendent