

# 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 16, 2020

Dear New Milford Public Schools Families and Staff,

We hope you are all doing well and finding a new normal. Today, administrators met families and staff members at each school to enable them to retrieve essential items left behind when we closed. Building principals continue to send emails to parents and answer questions regarding school specific concerns.

Today's message is an update regarding how the recent decisions of the Governor impact our district. On Sunday, March 15, Governor Lamont announced he was closing public schools until March 31. At the same time, Education Commissioner Cardona announced that all public schools would be participating in distance learning. We have no information about when schools will reopen.

**What will distance learning look like for our district?** We will be sending you additional information about how distance learning will work for our teachers and students. We hope to implement our distance learning by March 25, 2020. This start date will allow our instructional staff to plan for a consistent roll out at each grade level. In the meantime, we encourage students to continue accessing the supplemental learning opportunities on our website <http://www.newmilfordps.org/>.

**What do we need parents to do?** Complete an online survey by **5:00 pm Tuesday, March 17** that will be sent to you by your child's principal. We need to know whether or not your child has access to a device that is connected to the internet. We will be checking out Chromebooks to students who have no device to use at home. More information will be sent regarding the date and time of distribution to each person in need.

**What if a family does not have access to the internet at home?** In response to emergency measures associated with Coronavirus (COVID-19), Internet Essentials is

providing **new customers two months of free service.** Sign up at <https://www.internetessentials.com/>

**How can students participate in Camella’s Cupboard?** Food distribution for students in need takes place on Friday night from 5:30-7:00 pm at the back of our NMPS Central Office at 50 East Street. If you have a need, Camella’s Cupboard welcomes you! Students will be provided with a bag of food for the week. If you have questions, contact Angela@camellascupboard.com or visit [www.camellascupboard.com](http://www.camellascupboard.com)

**Are there books or materials available for students?** Students can pick up books or journal materials on Friday night from 5:30-7:00 pm at the back of our NMPS Central Office at 50 East Street.

**Will we be attending school during spring break?** Once we begin our distance learning, it will continue as long as our schools are closed for this school year. We will communicate the exact end date for our district as soon as we have confirmation from Commissioner Cardona. Governor Lamont is the person who is making the decision about when we return to school. At this time, we have no guarantee regarding the length of the closure or a return date.

We hope you continue to take precautions during this unprecedented time. Please follow the guidelines given by our state regarding social distancing and hand washing. We appreciate your emails – they help guide our messages to you. We will continue providing you with information as we have it.

Thinking of you all and wishing you good health!



Kerry Parker and the NMPS Leadership Team