

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Dr. Kerry Parker
Superintendent of Schools

March 17, 2020

Dear New Milford Public Schools Families and Staff,

Today, our leadership team continued developing the distance learning program for our district. Although it was communicated at Governor Lamont's press conference on Sunday, March 15, that there would be state-wide distance learning, there is not a specific format or program for us to follow. We have been given examples and programmatic support, but are developing our own plan in order to move forward with distance learning for the students of New Milford Public Schools.

Have there been any updates from the Commissioner of Education? Yes, we found out yesterday that "Districts should engage immediately in providing continuity of educational opportunities for students and may end the school year at their regularly scheduled end date." For us, that's June 16. This is great news!

Where are the links for supplement learning on the website? Please go to the home page of our district website <http://www.newmilfordps.org/> and look in the top center of the page for the red COVID-19 Information box. Click on the box and it will take you to the page with the links for student learning and special education resources, as well as communications sent so far. Also on the page is a link for 60 days of free internet offered by Spectrum.

What if a family does not have access to the internet at home? Yesterday I sent information about free internet service via Comcast. Thanks to some helpful parents, I discovered that New Milford does not have Comcast, however Spectrum offers the same program. Here's the link:

<https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>

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

Are supplies available for students who need them? We had planned to make books or journal materials available to students who needed them, however at this time our focus is on your safety and we believe it is best to follow the guidance by the CDC and limit interactions following social distancing guidelines. If your child does not have a book to read or pencil/pen and paper to write in a journal, please let me know and we will do our best to get something arranged for you.

We appreciate your emails – they help guide our messages to you and last night they helped me solve the free internet dilemma. We will continue providing you with information as we have it.

Thinking of you all and wishing you good health!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kerry Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kerry Parker and the NMPS Leadership Team