

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 18, 2020

Dear New Milford Public Schools Families and Staff,

We hope you are all doing well and taking good care of each other! Today our teachers went into their schools to collect materials they might need as we move toward distance learning. As you can imagine, this is a very stressful time for teachers because they are being asked to plan and prepare for teaching in a way some of them have never done. They are concerned for their students and how best to provide instruction that is meaningful and accessible for everyone. They know not every student has someone there to guide them in activities. They understand that some parents are still required to go in to work, while others are working from home. This presents challenges for our students and we are approaching our distance learning plan with all these factors in mind. We will be sharing the distance learning plan with you on Monday. As with everything we have been doing in the last week – it will likely evolve. We appreciate your support and patience during the plan's implementation.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions from the past 24 hours.

How are students who need them going to get their Chromebooks? We ask that you follow the pick-up times below if at all possible. These are the times devices will be checked out. We ask that if you must come at a time other than the scheduled time for your school, you do this as a last resort in order to limit traffic and keep enough devices available. If none of the times work for you, please contact your child's principal so distribution can be arranged.

All Chromebooks will be distributed at Sarah Noble Intermediate School

- Devices can be picked up at the cafeteria exterior entrance on the side of the building.
- Please pay attention as there will be signage leading you to the distribution point.
- When you arrive, please wait inside your car. Someone will be going car-to-car to provide instructions.

Thursday, March 19, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 **SNIS students**, distribution at Sarah Noble Intermediate School

11:00 – 1:00 **SMS students**, distribution at Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Friday March 20, 2020

- 9:00 – 10:30 **HPS students**, distribution at Sarah Noble Intermediate School
- 10:30 – 12:00 **NES students**, distribution at Sarah Noble Intermediate School
- 12:00 – 2:00 **NMHS & LHTC**, distribution at Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Are the links on the district website part of ‘distance learning’? No. What we have shared on the website are supplemental learning opportunities for students to engage in until our distance learning begins on March 25. These links can be found on the home page of our district website <http://www.newmilfordps.org/>. 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. There is also a link for 60 days of free internet offered by Spectrum.

How can I talk to my children about the coronavirus? Here is one article we found with some good advice and we will continue to share others.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/parenting/coronavirus-kids-talk.html>

What if a family does not have access to the internet at home? Here’s the link for 60 days of free internet offered by Spectrum:

<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

Please continue to email us with questions. Principals are your best source for student-specific issues, so email them directly. We appreciate hearing from you as it helps us 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