

WYOMING AREA

252 Memorial Street, Exeter, PA 18643-2698



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Phone: 570-655-3733 · Fax: 570-883-1280

Janet M. Serino
Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you are aware, schools are currently closed for all students in accordance with Governor Wolf's school closure order. As it appears the pandemic-related closure will continue longer than first expected, we will be implementing an interim plan to provide virtual education to all students until the order is lifted.

This letter is to advise about planned changes and provision of a virtual free appropriate public education for your child, consistent with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education affording public schools "flexibility" in these unique circumstances. You and your child continue to have the rights regarding a free appropriate public education provided to you under federal law. For more information about those rights, including your right to dispute these proposed changes, view the Notice of Procedural Safeguards on our Website at <http://www.wyomingarea.org/specialeducation>.

The district plans to initiate temporary, pandemic related changes to your child's educational program and placement. Specifically, the district proposes to initiate virtual special education and related services. These changes are temporary and will not change or affect the programming specified in your child's current IEP. That programming will be in place once schools reopen.

We will send timing and logistical information about accessing virtual special education and related services for your child separately. This education and these related services will be based on your child's needs as much as possible, given the limitations of the virtual platform.

The administration decided to provide coursework using a platform suggested by the PA Department of Education. The platforms are Odysseyware for grades K through 6 and Edgenuity for grades 7 through 12, respectively.

Our teachers are currently receiving training on these platforms. We are also working on rostering our students into the programs. Upon completion of training and rostering, you will receive step by step directions as to how to access and utilize the programs.

We are hoping this process will begin next week. You, as parents and guardians, will NOT be instructing. Students should be able to utilize the program with minimal assistance. Our teachers will be monitoring progress and assisting with instruction, as needed.

Our goal is not to penalize students and families. We expect that our students will want to participate. We also understand that everyone cannot follow a particular schedule. We ask that you make a sincere effort to participate and we are willing and expecting to work with you.

Children may work at their own pace at any time of the day. At the end of the school year, the district will evaluate what has been accomplished. In addition, administration and teachers understand that our curriculum will need to be adjusted accordingly for next school year.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Robert Galella <i>Director of Curriculum and Instruction</i> 570-655-3733	Jon Pollard, Ed. D. <i>Secondary Center Principal</i> 570-655-2836	Cathy Ranieli <i>Asst. Secondary Center Principal</i> 570-655-2836	David Pacchioni <i>Elementary Principal</i> 570-693-1914	Brian Strazdus <i>Elementary Principal</i> 570-654-1404	JoAnn Pepsin <i>Elementary Principal</i> 570-655-2146	Shaun Rohland <i>Asst. Principal of Discipline</i> 570-655-2836	Vanessa Nee <i>Special Education Supervisor</i> 570-655-2836
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Special education case managers have begun to reach out to families to offer resources through the use of our computer based educational platforms, virtual meetings, and conference calls.

We will continue to offer support and guidance. In order to ensure you are receiving information from the school, we ask that you please check that you have an updated phone number and email address on file. We will continue to utilize our website and School Messenger system to keep families informed.

In the coming weeks, we will meet individually with every child's parent, through telephone or internet-based conferencing. These meetings will enable us to better tailor your child's virtual education, to the extent we are able, as we all learn more about your child's experience with this new learning experience. You should also feel free to contact your child's special education teacher if you are having difficulties accessing virtual learning.

Your child's virtual program will include participation in any virtual regular education course work in subjects for which your child participates in the general curriculum. The regular education subjects in which your child participates are outlined in Section VII of his or her current IEP. Information concerning regular education coursework will be shared with all families separately.

We recognize that some students will not be able to participate fully in, or will gain only limited benefit from, these virtual programs and services. Once the school reopens, we will resume your child's educational program and placement as described in his or her IEP, and we will be discussing at IEP team meetings whether your child might require additional programming or services to address any learning problems the period of school closure might have caused.

We believe—and trust that you do too—that this experiment with virtual learning will prove better for all children in the present circumstances than doing nothing. We anticipate encountering difficulties with this roll-out, although just what difficulties remains to be seen. As such, your understanding, cooperation, and assistance is critical to keep us all moving in a positive trajectory.

These are challenging and uncertain times. As previously communicated, the district continues to reevaluate, review, and revise educational opportunities for all students and the Continuity of Education Plan. The most recent version, revised on April 21, 2020, is available on the Wyoming Area Website.

Once again, you are asked to do your best. Our goal is to give all of our children the best opportunity for education and to keep them safe.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Nee

Director of Special Education