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COVID-19 Update 03.25.2020

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>
To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Wed, Mar 25, 2020 at 3:41 PM

All,

I hope this email finds everyone doing the best that you can during these upended, unpredictable times. As your learning community we continuously monitor guidance and establish our direction. Unfortunately the guidance has slowed as I believe more arduous decisions about extending the shutdown and how to uniformly approach access to teaching and learning across our state is at the forefront. With the lack of specific guidance, the DCRSD is moving from the currently provided [learning opportunities](#) to more *enhanced learning opportunities*. Our goal is to launch these *enhanced learning opportunities* next Monday, March 30, 2020. The main goal is to increase student engagement and create greater opportunities for students to connect to their classroom and special education teacher. This should be recognized as a next step to take us further but know pending guidance may change or alter our plan.

Please note that our teachers and staff are doing everything they can to collaborate, build grade level consensus and provide meaningful opportunities for student engagement. Our need for your assistance is still high with this plan as this is not the perfect situation for everyone. While we do not know the circumstances in each household, our staff can empathize as they are sheltering in place with their children and loved ones. We are all limited in our ability to see a finish line but we can try to stay connected through this shutdown. Our efforts are grounded in student accessibility, meaningful engagement and student access to educators. We know that this will add frustrations and stresses but hope that our collective efforts will build on the greatness that makes our DCRSD community.

We will have more in the coming days with a planned, system-wide roll-out of Monday, March 30, 2020. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please email your student(s) principal. No question is too small.

I have a few more informational items that are important to you.

1. As we continue to provide grab-n-go meals for families that are identified as free and reduced we have heard that the mid-day pickup does not help everyone. Therefore, this Friday and moving forward on Mondays and Fridays we established a 4:30-6:00 PM grab-n-go pickup at SHRHS [only] for all DCRSD families [Charlton and Dudley] who are unable to pickup mid-day. Again, we believe other families will qualify for free and reduced school meals and encourage you to complete the attached application and hand it to one of our staff at the grab-n-go locations. As a reminder, SHRHS is open to Dudley families from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Mondays and Fridays. Charlton Middle School is open to Charlton families from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Mondays and Fridays. SHRHS will now be open Fridays and Mondays to all Charlton and Dudley families from 4:30-6:00 PM who are unable to pickup mid-day.
2. For AP students we understand that the College Board continues to develop plans to let AP students test at home. We also know that the College Board is providing preparatory opportunities. We support and encourage every enrolled AP student to participate. Your AP SHRHS teachers will connect with you to ensure this opportunity is accessed.
3. Our Special Education Coordinators are beginning to coordinate IEP TEAM meetings via telecommunication or virtually. We will make every effort to accommodate your household communication system to establish this process.
4. We have all heard that the US Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, and our federal government has waived all federally required standardized testing. While I do not have a reason to believe otherwise, in our state, MCAS must be legislatively waived and our Governor has introduced such language. Once we learn that it has been officially waived and will not be administered at any level in our state we will let you know.

Lastly, we are very proud of our staff and their ability to mobilize their commitment to all students and the families of the DCRSD. Educators thrive in a social world and the struggle is real to move to a virtual world. Again, our plans are not perfect, but we care about you and your children. We do not have all the answers but we will continue to review guidance from our state and other institutions.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

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