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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Lynn Public Schools Community,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe during this difficult time. In light of the extended statewide school closure, I would like to briefly summarize steps we have taken and services we have provided thus far (Phase 1) and outline a plan we intend launch on April 27th (Phase 2). The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently issued guidance to all school districts recommending that schools provide services to students remotely. The goal therein is to support and maintain students' current levels of progress as best as possible during these unprecedented times. The emergency circumstances with which we are faced will not allow the Lynn Public Schools team to provide services in the manner we would normally. Nonetheless, the plans we have executed thus far and intend to launch align with the goals in the DESE guidance. We deeply appreciate your patience and flexibility as we evolve the remote learning opportunities for all of our students.

Phase 1

Upon the cancellation of the school on March 12th, we moved quickly to establish plans that would suffice for four weeks of anticipated closure. They were as follows:

Category 1: Health and Well-Being of All Students

- Food stability through "grab and go" lunch program (English, Classical, LVTI, Marshall)
- Assemble and disseminate housing stability resources
- Mobilize Lynn Public Schools clinicians; mental and emotional health resources assembled and disseminated
- Frequently Asked Questions document developed and posted for families

Category 2: Learning

- Grade-based resources and activities available on all school websites by March 18th (paper-based distribution on March 16th)
- All students receive meaningful contact from staff twice per week via phone, email, or other platform
- Development of communication platforms – Class Dojo (elementary) and Jupiter (middle and high school)

Phase 2

In Phase 1, we sought to firmly establish resources and services to support the well-being of all students, first and foremost. We asked teachers to develop content that would suffice for approximately four weeks. With this plan in place and the extension of the cancellation from April 3rd to May 4th and likely beyond, we have shifted to a thoughtful approach for academic engagement. The Phase 2 approach will sustain academic engagement through the end of the school year, should the cancellation extend to that point. Phase 2 of the remote learning plan is set to begin April 27th and will come in the form of interdisciplinary projects and activities anchored in common themes district-wide. The work will feature the themes of Community, Adaptation, and Reflection. The plan:

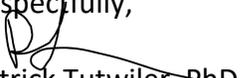
- features accessibility and/or modified components allowing **ALL** students to engage
- includes a menu of options with a recommended daily schedule for students
- incorporates physical activity and activities related to the arts
- aligns with DESE guidance on remote learning , which calls for students to be engaged with learning for approximately one-half of a normal school day

In all, this remote learning plan provides an accessible learning structure for students and will allow teachers to better support and communicate with students and families.

Embracing the district core value of inclusiveness, all students will be able to access the Phase 2 materials. Students do not need to have access to technology or the internet in order to engage with all Phase 2 learning activities. The work will be available for families in paper form as well as online. A distribution plan for paper-based materials is forthcoming.

The situation in which we find ourselves is truly unprecedented. I am so incredibly grateful for the Lynn Public Schools staff for their ongoing effort to provide support, first and foremost, and re-invent the ways in which they perform their professional responsibility to young people. I am equally grateful for the flexibility and patience families have shown. As a parent of three school-age children who is working full time, I know first-hand just how challenging this situation is. Your willingness to act as a conduit between our educators and your children is what makes their continued educational engagement possible. We see you as a part of our team, and thus will continue to solicit your feedback on our plans, and the execution of them, to make sure we are meeting the needs of families. No matter the inevitable shifts and turns ahead, we will get through this together by staying together.

Respectfully,


Patrick Tutwiler, PhD

Superintendent, Lynn Public Schools