

March 24, 2020

Dear Dover Sherborn Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. By now, you may have heard that yesterday Governor Charlie Baker ordered all public schools closed until **May 4, 2020**. Although, we understand that this decision was grounded in science and that it is aimed to reduce community spread of the Coronavirus, we also know how difficult it will be for our staff, students, and families to be without school for this extended period of time.

In the coming days we will receive further guidance from Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, Jeff Reilly and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on any changes being recommended by the state with regard to our remote learning programs. Past guidance has centered on “keeping the learning alive” through “enrichment” experiences, but not advancing the curriculum. This may change and if it does, we will work to adjust our systems accordingly. Any required adjustments would go into effect at the start of the new extended closure period, **April 6th**. Please keep in mind that we will be honoring our April vacation, which is slated to run **April 20-24th**.

We lament daily the sudden loss of contact with the people we care about. It has been difficult for us all and for you especially as you have assumed a greater portion of your child’s education. Moving forward we will be seeking feedback via a survey on how the remote learning program has worked for you and your children. We are new to this process and want feedback.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you that the Governor’s decision to close our schools is based on the statewide effort to reduce community spread of the Coronavirus through social distancing. It is a proven fact that keeping our distance from one another can “flatten the curve” and reduce the risk of infection to all of us. Perhaps most importantly, it assures the safety of our healthcare providers (many of whom reside here in our two towns). On behalf of these individuals and our two communities, I ask again for your assistance with this effort. The sooner we can reduce the spread of this infection, the sooner we can return to our normal lives.

Thank you again for your continued support. We will be in touch shortly with the survey and further information regarding any adjustments to our remote learning program.

Sincerely,

Andrew

Andrew Keough

Superintendent of Schools