

March 17, 2020

Dear Dover Sherborn Families,

As mentioned in our earlier correspondence, our "remote learning plan" will go into effect on Monday, March 23. In the meantime, our educators are busy finding dynamic resources to inspire curiosity and learning from home. Many of them have already been in touch with you as they miss the everyday interactions with students and the classroom families that have developed this year.

At this point, schools are scheduled to remain closed through April 3. Per the Governor and Commissioner of Education's mandate, these days will not count toward the required 180 and will not be considered "instructional time." Instead, educators are being asked to offer opportunities for "enrichment" to "keep learning alive." By no means are we expected or able to recreate the learning environment that exists in a traditional classroom.

"Enrichment" activities are defined as those that review or allow for deeper exploration of content and skills already covered; they may also include research or curiosity projects that are not part of the traditional curriculum. Grades are frozen as of March 12 and we will resume the official curriculum upon return to school. Should the closure extend beyond April 3, we will revisit this model with the state and adapt as necessary.

In terms of developing a schedule for learning at home, Jessica Minahan, a renowned educator and behavioral expert, has proposed a schedule for families to consider (see attached). While it may seem elementary at first, its basic tenets are applicable to people of all ages. It is included for reference should you be looking to add structure to the day.

As for the "academic time" and "creative time" referenced in this schedule, teachers will be reaching out to you on Monday, if not earlier, with guidelines and resources for enrichment. At the elementary level, educators will be providing roughly 2.5 hours of work per day across reading, writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Spanish. At the middle school level, teachers will be providing roughly 2 hours of work per subject over the course of a week. At the high school level, administrators and program directors are working to calibrate expectations and will be in touch with you directly. Teachers of elective courses and "specials" will be providing roughly one hour of work per day for all students to engage in during their "creative time."

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any point. Building leaders, team leaders, teachers, counselors and support staff will be reaching out to you as well; they, too, are available to support you and your family through this period. It is certainly new territory for all of us and we are lucky to be in it together.

Thank you for your continued support of teaching and learning in the district. Best wishes to you and yours in the days ahead.

All the best,

*Andrew*

Andrew Keough

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