



We make a difference in Enfield - every child, every day.

Christopher Drezek; Superintendent of Schools; cdrezek@enfieldschools.org

1010 Enfield Street • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

TEL: 860.253.6533 • FAX: 860.253.6515 • WWW.ENFIELDSCHOOLS.ORG

Dear Parents, Staff, and Students of the Enfield Public Schools,

As you already heard, Governor Lamont has extended the executive order for Connecticut schools to remain closed until at least April 20th. This new directive will take us up to the conclusion of our regularly scheduled spring break. In the coming days, you or your child will be receiving additional materials from your child's school, which will provide students with enough distance learning opportunities to get them through this closure. I'd like to clarify the expectation the district has for your children during this time.

These additional assignments will provide learning opportunities through April 9th, which is the day before Good Friday. We will still be recognizing Good Friday as a holiday, and April vacation will remain as planned during the week of April 13th to April 17th. I believe everyone - students, teachers, and parents - all deserve a break during this trying time, and we intend to honor these days off as originally planned. There is no expectation from the district that any work will be required by anyone (students or staff) during this time. It is my hope that everyone will use this well deserved break to take time to relax with family and engage in activities that will help everyone decompress from the circumstances we've needed to deal with over the past few weeks. Although this closure deadline is only extended through April 20th, we have to be prepared in the event it lasts longer. As more information is available, we will send additional information home for students so they are prepared to continue our distance learning plan for a longer duration, if necessary.

Let me reiterate, although everyone has pulled together to create a distance learning plan in record time, we all realize it is not perfect. We also realize that the stress parents, students, and teachers are feeling is real. We are in uncharted territory. Since we've never experienced anything like this before, everyone is doing everything they can to make this situation work as best as possible for our students. Right now, our highest priority is everyone's safety. The work we send home is important, but the safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance; therefore, what we are asking is that everyone continue to do their best.

We realize there are still many questions regarding this approach to learning, and we will do our best to answer what we can, but please understand we all need to work together during these trying times. If we exercise patience and understanding, we will come through this stronger. I want parents, students, and staff to know our intention is to be very flexible with these distance learning materials in regards to completion and grading. As we await guidance on grading and credit from the Connecticut State Department of Education, we are currently working on provisions regarding exactly how these assignments will impact student performance measures. We understand the anxiety this situation has caused, and we intend to be as flexible as possible to help everyone get through this. Again, all we ask is that everyone do their best, and we will work together to make the best of this challenging situation.

Lastly, I just want to remind everyone to stay safe. It seems like every day a new executive order or guidance is sent out that changes how we normally live our lives. I don't have any inside information on when life will get back to normal, but our main priority is keeping everyone as safe as we can. Please adhere to the guidelines we are receiving, practice social distancing, stay home if you are able, and continue to practice good personal hygiene. Most importantly, please remain optimistic. The outpouring of support I've received on the behalf of our staff and the stories of how people are coming together during this difficult time reminds me of the best in all of us. We will get through this. As long as we

support one another and remember our highest priority, our students, we will come out of this stronger than ever.

Stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Drezek", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher J. Drezek

Superintendent of Schools