



# John F. Kennedy Middle School

Enfield Public Schools

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***“Respect, Diligence, Dignity”***

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Dear JFK School Community,

Good afternoon, we hope this message finds you and your family in good health. As you are aware, this pandemic is fluid in nature and presents many challenges. Our first priorities involve our students’ health and welfare. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) is a comprehensive resource and news source to learn more about prevention and breakthroughs concerning COVID-19. [The National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) also provide in-depth information about this virus. Beyond physical symptoms and prevention, we must also remain cognizant of our students’ mental health. The CDC provides child-specific guidance for parents/guardians relating to [COVID-19 HERE](#). In addition, the CDC offers broader guidance for supporting students who may experience challenges coping with unsettling times ([helping children cope](#)). Our school counseling department will be providing more local guidance in the coming days.

Yesterday, Superintendent Drezek distributed a vital communication regarding our breakfast and lunch programs. Please see his message here:

Beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, we will be serving grab-and-go breakfast and lunch for any registered Enfield student who currently takes advantage of our breakfast and lunch program. We have established two locations for families to pick-up these items. Every weekday, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., students or families can pick up that day's lunch and the following day's breakfast at either Enfield High School (1264 Enfield Street) or JFK Middle School (155 Raffia Road). We have established a distribution process to minimize the potential of large gatherings of people. Staff will be distributing these meals to families in their cars, and a walk-up method will be available at these sites as well. We will continue our meal distribution program every weekday for families who need it during this shutdown. More information about our meal distribution plan, including meal accommodations, are available on our [website](#).

We are beyond appreciative and commend our Nutrition Services Department for providing nourishment to our school community during these challenging times. Again, thank you to the entire department for planning and executing such a large undertaking.

As we plan for distance learning, we ask that you create a time management plan with your child. This will support them in organizing and setting reasonable academic goals. The packets are available online [HERE](#). Beyond these graded activities, educators are organizing to create enrichment opportunities for our students. These activities are meant to reinforce foundational education and provide meaningful opportunities to learn. Individual educators and

academic teams will be in contact via email and/or PowerSchool. Our teachers, school counselors, and faculty will be available to support students from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the week. If students have a question or need assistance, we encourage them to reach out via email or by using our Unified Classroom (PowerSchool) learning management system. Also, as educators attempt to balance work with family obligations, we ask for your flexibility and understanding during this time. We are excited to experience both the creativity of our educators and students as they navigate the distance learning process via digital platforms. In the event we are out of school longer than originally anticipated, we want to prepare and plan for prolonged distance learning and grading procedures. We ask that you complete a brief survey on your digital/electronic accessibility. Your input is vital and appreciated. Please find the [survey here](#) (survey will close this Friday 3/20 at 3 pm).

We will open the building from 11-1 pm this Thursday (3/19) and Friday (3/20) for students to retrieve instruments or items from their lockers. We ask that students enter the building while parents/guardians wait outside. All wing entrances will be unlocked. We urge students to hastily grab their essentials and promptly depart. A building administrator will be on site to aid with anything else your child may need. Please understand this will be the only time the building will be accessible in the immediate future. Starting next week, the building will be dormant and undergo a comprehensive disinfection process. The only exception will be the cafeteria/green wing where the lunch program will operate.

Please understand that all foreseeable school activities are canceled until further notice. In the coming days, our athletic director will be in contact with the status of our spring athletic programs. We are awaiting guidance from the state concerning standardized testing. Any new information that we receive will be communicated to you in a timely manner.

Finally, we feel it is imperative to highlight the proactive initiative that was taken by our central office administration. Their ability to coordinate with town officials and key stakeholders created conditions to remedy an extremely challenging problem. We, as a school, are fortunate to reap the benefits of effective leadership and a supportive community: *thank you!*

Respectfully,



Andrew Berrios, Ed.D.  
Principal