



Hebron Public Schools



High Expectations, Bright Futures

Administration Office

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Thomas J. Baird, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Donald E. Briere, Ph.D
Director of Educational Services

March 26, 2020

Dear Hebron Families:

I wanted to provide another update regarding our school closure due to the ever evolving coronavirus outbreak ("COVID-19"). As you may have already heard, the Governor **closed schools through at least April 20th and has indicated that schools *could* be closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.** As a reminder, our **April break will continue as scheduled from Friday, April 10th through Friday, April 17th. Our last day of school is scheduled to be Tuesday, June 16th.**

As you know, we have previously provided Interim Educational Opportunities, suggested but optional learning tasks, for children to be able to continue learning while we have been closed. Our educators have been hard at work to transition to Distance Learning. Launching an initiative like Distance Learning would typically be done over months and would be a project best completed over the summer with teams working closely with all of our materials within arm's reach. The challenge of launching Distance Learning has been huge. In Hebron, we value student collaboration and make student-teacher conferencing a central focus of our instructional format. We limit digital learning tools so that students do most of their work off-line. This has added an additional challenge for us as we launch Distance Learning during this extended closure. I am very proud of our educators and the work they have completed over the last two weeks in order for us to begin Distance Learning next Monday. Here are the goals we set for ourselves:

- To provide enhanced Interim Educational Opportunities with Support Considerations for families and students
- To provide a means to maintain school connection with families and students
- To ensure continuity between classes and grades in a digital learning environment
- To continue instruction using many existing programs for students in partnership with families
- To provide a platform that allows flexible access for all students and families
- To preserve our workshop instructional format focused on mini-lessons, skill practice, video conferencing, and providing high-quality actionable feedback to students

I know you have started hearing from your teachers and many have reported video conferencing has started. Here are our next steps:

- Distribution of our Distance Learning Plan and our Passive Consent Notice related to video use in our implementation of Distance Learning
- New grade-level weekly lesson plans organized into daily flexible schedules
- New digital learning tools (Lexia, Khan Academy, etc.) phased-in over the coming weeks
- Teachers will be video conferencing with students
- Teachers will be providing video mini-lessons
- Teachers will be asking for select pieces of student work to be "turned in" for feedback for suggested revisions as part of the editing process

- Teachers will be in regular communication Monday-Thursday between the hours of 9-3 and will use Friday to plan, make new mini-lesson videos, and engage in training for tech tools/digital learning platforms
- Administration is currently working out how report cards for Marking Period 2 will be distributed

Teachers are working collaboratively in teams. Do not be surprised if someone other than the classroom teacher is providing the video mini-lesson or providing a learning conference for your child. These will still be familiar faces for our students as many of our staff work in multiple classrooms. This team approach is central to how our teachers work day-to-day throughout the year. If a teacher or a member of their family becomes ill, this allows for others to assist you and your children.

You can also expect continued communication with your teachers and principals via school messenger and email. We have also launched and enhanced several ways we are supporting you through this time of extended school closure. These include:


- Our webpage organizing information related to COVID-19 including a Learning at Home tab which will house all of the weekly grade-level plans and you can find here: <https://hebron.k12.ct.us/district/coronavirus>
- Our new Facebook page which you can find here: <https://www.facebook.com/Hebron-Public-Schools-104519924519762/>
- Our Twitter page which you can find here: <https://twitter.com/hebronschoolsct?lang=en>
- Our Technology Team is here to help you - just email help@hebron.k12.ct.us
- If you are in need of an iPad (grades K and 1) and/or Chromebook (grades 2-6) please complete this form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14iLrrrDZmvx4qzIRTIbGLHrX3ezE03097UN-ynPABXQ/> and the Technology Team will be in touch
- Multiple meals are provided to all students and their siblings under 18 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00-9:00 AM at Gilead Hill School - see the flyer on the website, Facebook, or Twitter for more information

There are also community supports available to you:

- AHM Youth & Family Services is available to help support families in need. AHM can be reached by calling 860-228-9488
- Families can also call 2-1-1 for access to health and community resources
- Access the Douglas Library Collection here: <https://douglaslibrary.org/resources/>
- If you need a library card, use this form: <https://douglas.biblio.org/eq/opac/register> and/or send an email to info@douglaslibrary.org
- Hebron Emergency Management is looking for donations of clean, unused masks for use by the Fire Department. If you have new medical or dust masks in their original packaging, please email hebronemd@gmail.com to arrange a pickup. NOTE: If you, or someone in your family, is currently ill, please do not donate.
- The Hebron Interfaith Human Services would also like to reassure families that Hebron has a fully stocked and operational food pantry located at 20 Pendleton Drive. They are here to serve any resident that may be experiencing a shortage of food due to financial strain, challenges accessing food due to medical concerns, or any other situation that may arise. Please call Christa Goodwin-Babka at 860-228-1681 or reach out through email HIHS@att.net for more information.

Please continue to reach out to our principals or to me with questions. Remember that our buildings and playscapes are closed but we will get back to you. We will continue to keep you updated on any further developments. Hebron Public Schools continues to follow all instructions, guidance, and recommendations received from town officials, state officials, Chatham Health District, the Connecticut State Department of Health and the Connecticut State Department of Education. The health and safety of all children, families, faculty, and staff continues to be our utmost priority. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as we all work through this challenging time together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Baird', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Baird, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Donald E. Briere, Ph.D, Director of Educational Services

Katie Uriano, Principal, Gilead Hill School

Michael Larkin, Principal, Hebron Elementary School