



March 11, 2020

Dear NCPS Community,

Despite our hopes, COVID-19 is now present in New Canaan. As Mr. Handler shared in an earlier email, for the protection of our community we are now taking the unfortunate step of closing our schools for fourteen (14) days to help limit the potential for “community spread” of the virus. Closing schools is not something any Superintendent, Health Department, or town does lightly. Nonetheless, after careful thought and consideration, and with the strong support of our school district doctor and other medical experts, it is the right decision for our students, staff, and community.

The New Canaan Public Schools will be closed beginning tomorrow, March 12, 2020. We anticipate schools will reopen on Thursday, March 26, 2020. In order to give our students, staff, and families time to make final preparations, we will begin our e-learning program on Friday, March 13, 2020.

As you know, our schools are highly complex organizations that provide a wide range of services to over 4,100 students and their families every day. While going into a fourteen-day closure will inevitably be disruptive, our faculty and staff have been working tirelessly over the past weeks to prepare for this scenario; thanks to their commitment to our students and families, I’m proud to say our district is ready.

We have prepared for this scenario by coming together as a district to develop plans that provide our students with a continuing educational experience during the closure. These plans will be shared by your building principals in subsequent communications.

As with any large-scale program, there are likely to be some glitches as things get underway; with this realization, we have developed systems of support for our staff and our students, and we are confident we will be able to resolve problems if/when they arise. We are committed to doing everything within our power to ensure every student has a productive, positive, and meaningful experience.

Like you, we were hoping that we would not have to close our schools. As we all know, however, hope is not a strategy, and thanks to the dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff we are facing this unknown situation with a clear and effective strategy in hand. We will remain in continual contact throughout the closure, and I encourage you to reach out to me or your building principals with any questions or concerns.

By continuing to take good care of ourselves, our families, and each other, we will continue successfully navigating the issues and challenges ahead. In all that we do and every decision we make, the health and wellness of our school community will always be our true north and unwavering guide.

My very best,

Bryan

Bryan D. Luizzi, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
New Canaan Public Schools