

Good Evening Plainville Families and Staff,

I am sure you have been watching the news and getting regular updates on COVID-19 impact around the globe, as I and my family have done. These are trying times, but we will continue to work together to get through this, and I will continue to share vital information as we navigate these uncharted waters.

- **Please check your email regularly** as I am awaiting notice from the Connecticut State Board of Education and Commissioner regarding my **distance learning waiver submission** from Friday. If the waiver is approved, we will be able to provide distance learning to our students during these days out of school and days missed would count toward the required 180 school days. As explained in my last message, *if we do not receive the waiver approval, we will have to make up all days missed by adding days onto the school year through June 30 and likely remove the April vacation entirely.* **For now, we await this critical decision from the state. I will let everyone know as soon as I receive any information, hopefully tomorrow.**
- **If we receive the waiver:** school assignments and activities being provided by principals and teachers through various print and digital platforms *will be required* and teachers will be working remotely to support students via electronic communication and potentially through other modes deemed helpful. This will evolve each day, especially if I hear that we receive the waiver.
- **Our top priority, following health and safety, is the continued education of all children of Plainville.** If the waiver is not accepted and days must be made up later, all work assigned would be supplemental and would not be required as with the more formal distance learning system we want to provide.
- **Comcast Internet Services is offering free internet for 2 months to assist with distance learning, for those who may not have internet access.** For more information, look here: <https://www.internetessentials.com/>
- If you go to the district website at www.plainvilleschools.org, you will notice that our home page has changes and provides COVID-19 information and all of my messages to you, along with Parent Resources related to Distance Learning. More information will be shared in the days ahead, so please continue to check emails.
- Please contact your school principal for any information you need about distance learning options and resources.
- Since Friday, I was able to work with our food service director and our central office team to apply for a separate waiver related to provision of **emergency food service**. Earlier today, I was notified by the state that **we have received permission to provide emergency food service, which will allow us to provide meals to any Plainville Community Schools students who would like to pick up a grab and go lunch and breakfast.**
- **Starting on Tuesday, March 17, families can stop by the main entrance of Plainville High School between 11:00am and 12:00pm (under the large awning near the flagpole on Robert Holcomb Way), and pick up a free lunch for that day, and also a breakfast for the following day. Families will need to provide their child(ren)'s name(s) and will be asked to take the meals home with them.** There will be no eating at the school or use of the school by students and families during this time.
- We will assess how popular this offering is and will take this on a day by day basis, but we are able to provide this daily starting on Tuesday until the end of the closure. I want to thank our Food Service Director, Michelle Ricapito and her staff, as well as my Director of Business and Operations, Sam Adlerstein for their assistance in fast tracking our application and making arrangements to staff this service with almost no notice to do so. We understand that families need food security and hope this is helpful.
- Going forward, **we will likely be asking families to fill out a quick form to sign up for meals**, to avoid waste, but we will assess and adjust based on how things go on Tuesday. We don't want to waste time or resources preparing more meals than are needed, and also don't want to have too few meals, so please look for a quick meal sign-up email in the near future. Regardless of the form, no children who are Plainville students will be turned away from receiving these meals.
- Please follow the guidance that has been promoted regarding **social distancing recommendations**. I found this quick reference last night and thought it simplified things on this topic. Staying away from close proximity to others and crowds is critical to minimizing spread and community impact. I hope this is helpful.

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As you can probably guess, this won't be my last communication, and I will inform everyone when I hear from the state regarding our distance learning waiver. For now, please do all you can to stay well, hopefully enjoy some time with your family and stay tuned for more information.

Warm regards,

Steve LePage, Superintendent of Schools