



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Sheila A. Muir, *Superintendent of Schools*

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April 15, 2020

Good Afternoon,

I hope you and your family members are well and are managing to successfully navigate the daily uncertainty that the COVID-19 crisis brings to all of us. In an effort to provide you with regular updates during the period of school closure, I have listed a few topics below that I hope you will find helpful.

April Vacation Clarification

We have received a few questions from parents regarding the status of April vacation. In the Quabbin District April vacation will take place as planned, April 20th through April 24th. We decided that to maximize student outcomes, it was best to preserve as many possible days for educators and students to work together in the traditional school setting once the mandated school closure period has ended. For students and families who would like to maintain learning routines and structures during the April break, choice boards containing learning activities will be made available on the QRSD website tomorrow. Please click on the Information for School Closure and then on the button labeled 'Educational Enrichment'. Please note these are optional activities and do not need to be submitted to teachers. Responses to emails sent to teachers during the April vacation period should be expected after we resume remote learning on April 27th. Required remote learning activities will resume the week of April 27th. Week-At-A-Glance plans for the week of April 27th will be posted in Google classrooms on or before Thursday April 24th.

Recording of Class Meetings and Lessons

Teachers may record lessons and post them in Google classrooms for future viewing by students. Notification will be given when a session will be recorded and efforts will be made to record only the portion of the lesson in which the teacher is providing instruction. However, in some instances, it will not be possible or practicable to record only the voice of the teacher, particularly when students ask or answer questions during a lesson.

2020 MCAS Testing

Governor Baker and Commissioner Riley have recently cancelled all MCAS testing for students in grades 3 through 10 this school year. The possibility of MCAS testing for high school seniors who have not yet earned the MCAS competency determination for graduation is still under consideration by Commissioner Riley. Mr. Devine will communicate any updated information related to this with students and families who are directly impacted.

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Food Distribution

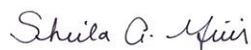
The QRSD is helping many families by providing a full week of breakfasts and lunches for children younger than 18, but we can do more. If you are in need of a helping hand with meals, please take advantage of our food distribution program. Also, we encourage you to spread the word about the program to families who may have young children, or children who do not attend school in our district. Distribution is taking place at the Middle High School and at Hardwick Elementary School between the hours of 7 am and 10 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On each pick-up date families can pick up meals for the days on which food distribution is not taking place.

Technology Distribution

Our technology team has been distributing Chromebooks to families of elementary students this week. The distribution of Chromebooks for students in grades 7 through 12 took place last week. If you were not able to obtain a device for your student, please email devices@qrsd.org and you will be contacted to make arrangements.

In closing, I want to thank you for the support, patience and understanding that you have demonstrated throughout our transition to remote learning. We are committed to continuing to support you and we are interested in hearing from you. Please feel free to contact your school principal or me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Sheila A. Muir, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools