

3/13/2020

Dear Whitman-Hanson Families:

In follow up to my earlier notification about the closing of school for two weeks beginning Monday, March 16, this letter is intended to answer some of your questions about what the closure means for students and their families.

As you may know, we have been in close and constant communication with the DESE Commissioner Jeff Riley, who stated that he will only be enforcing the 185 day school year rule. Under that, and knowing we have had one snow day this year, students are obligated to make up 4 days at the conclusion of the school year. Currently that would be June 19, 2020 as the last day of school. Any other days lost will not need to be physically made up.

What does this mean for education? Week 1

- Monday, March 16-Thursday, March 19, 2020 will be the 4 days that will need to be made up at the end of the school year.
- Friday, March 20, 2020 – all staff will report to their schools at their regular start time for the day. This will be a day of learning and planning together for the following week.
- The grading window ends today and will resume upon our expected return. We still plan to have grading day Friday, April 3 and report cards will go out the following Wednesday.
- MCAS assessments have not been cancelled. DESE may adjust as needed.

What does this mean for education? Week 2

- Week of 23-27, 2020 – Students will receive information via email, School Messenger, Google classroom and/or school website as to topics they may want to work on to “Keep Learning Alive!”
- These topics will not be graded but are being used to support and further student learning.

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

- Beginning Monday, March 16 – Daily (M-F), from 11AM-1PM, the snack shack area of the High School, which is in front of the Performing Arts center, will be available for grab and go lunch and breakfast meals for any student needing that service. All they need is their student ID number and it will be handled as it normally is during a regular day. This is the only time a school building will be open during both weeks.

Students/Families Internet Connectivity and Devices

- Families may contact 781-618-7438 (Help Desk) or email helpdesk@whrsd.org if they need a device for the week of March 23-27. We will have a limited number of Chromebooks available for loan on a case by case basis.
- Of note, the Whitman Public Library loans Verizon Hot Spots to folks with a library card. Furthermore, folks can go to library. In addition, the Hanson Public Library has connectivity in the parking lot and folks can log on to the network outside the building as was relayed to us at School Committee meeting held on March 12.

In closing, I ask that you be good to one another, take care of yourselves and families and support the mantra of “Keep Learning Alive” with your children.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Szymaniak
Superintendent of Schools