

March 24, 2020

Dear NEC Families;

I hope that you are all safe and healthy. I know that for many of you this is an extremely stressful time.

By the end of this week we should have more information about whether school closures in MA will extend beyond April 3rd. This seems likely, so I would recommend that you start to prepare yourself and your family for that possibility.

Although we are all concerned about your children's academic progress and IEP goals, our first priorities are your physical and mental health.

I know that your child's teachers, specialists and counselors have been reaching out, but please feel free to contact me directly at 978-232-9755 ext. 1253 if you are not getting the support that you need. If I can't help you, I will try to find you the right community organization to help. There are lots of places that are offering support to families in need at this time.

Here are some general resources that may be particularly valuable:

If your family needs help with food, housing, or other basic needs you can contact the United Way: <https://unitedwaymassbay.org/resources/need-help/>

Northshore Food Pantries: https://essexcountyhungerrelief.org/find_food?town-served=All

Our Neighbors Table (serves: Amesbury, Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, South Hampton, and West Newbury):
<https://www.ourneighborstable.org/>

If you are concerned about homelessness/shelter:
<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/find-emergency-family-shelter>

Filing for unemployment:
<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-unemployment-and-coronavirus-covid-19>

If your family needs help with mental health support:
<https://www.nami.org/getattachment/About-NAMI/NAMI-News/2020/NAMI-Updates-on-the-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Updated-Guide-1.pdf>

If you are looking for more free education activities:
<https://www.wgbh.org/distancelearning>

NEC Website and Facebook Pages are being regularly updated with resources and ideas:

Website: <https://www.nsedu.org/coronavirus-update/coronavirus-updates/>

Facebook Pages:

[Northshore Education Consortium](#)

[NEC Parents](#)

[Kevin O'Grady School](#)

[Northshore Recovery High School](#)

I will send another update later this week or next week when we have more information from the state.

Be well,

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