

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Dear East Greenwich families,

We understand this is a challenging and delicate time. We appreciate all you are doing to help keep your family and our greater East Greenwich community well and safe by staying home and practicing social-distancing recommendations.

Following orders delivered by Governor Raimondo this afternoon, **all Rhode Island public school districts, including East Greenwich, will be moving to online distance learning beginning Monday, March 23, 2020 through Friday, April 3, 2020.** At the end of this two-week period, the Governor and the R.I. Department of Education will be re-evaluating this policy and providing further direction regarding public school plans moving forward.

For families, we are asking for your support navigating these times. Please note, this is not a continuation of the school vacation week, and we will be treating this timeframe beginning on Monday, March 23 as school "in session." Our teachers and administrators are working incredibly hard to bring learning to online platforms for our students, and we understand there may be some challenges as we continue modifying the best way to deliver classroom-quality lessons to your children at home. This is the first time our district has done this, so we anticipate adjustments to our system as we progress through these two weeks.

The East Greenwich School Department wants to make sure that every student has access to a Chromebook for educational purposes. If you did not respond to our Technology Survey, or we missed your response, and you need a Chromebook for one or more of your children, please email chromebooksupport@egsd.net immediately. Chromebook distribution will take place at Frenchtown School tomorrow, Thursday, March 19 from 9:00-11:00am.

Our school administrators and teachers will be communicating specific lessons and guidance with their classes and students directly through email as a follow-up to this communication. We ask that you and your students please check their inboxes routinely throughout the day, including first thing in the morning.

Beginning on Monday, March 23, students will be responsible for:

- Completing learning tasks/assignments that their teachers communicate
- Logging-in to required online learning tools assigned by their teacher(s)
- Continuing to be respectful to their teacher(s) and peers through online communication, just as they would during a normal school day
- Communicating any questions, concerns, or confusion with teacher(s) so students do not lose out on valuable lesson time or fall behind
- Attending and engaging with all assigned material as required (this may range from "live learning" to engaging in online discussion forums and Google Docs. Each school/teacher will communicate these logistics and expectations to your student).

Beginning on Monday, March 23, parents will be responsible for:

- Helping establish a daily schedule that will support a positive learning environment
- Encouraging students through this uncharted territory as they complete work assignments, and reminding them of distance learning expectations

- Encouraging students to ask their teacher(s) directly for help if they seem confused or need additional support on an assignment
- Reporting a student “absence” if your child would normally have been kept home from school (i.e. due to illness or another reason a student would have been unavailable for classroom learning). Parents must email their school secretary to report the absence.

The health of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority. We will continue to follow new guidelines and recommendations as they evolve by the CDC and State. You can access the latest health updates from the [Department of Health](#) and [CDC](#) on their websites.

Our East Greenwich School Department is working to address all school-related services that your family may rely on, and will continue sharing updates with you as they become available. We ask that you contact your school administrators and teachers directly with questions specific to online distance learning.

We would like to extend thanks, again, to our district’s faculty, staff, and administration who have been working so hard to prepare for this situation as best as possible. We collectively appreciate your patience and commitment to our students’ learning.

In good health,

Alexis Meyer
Acting Superintendent

Frank Pallotta
Interim Superintendent