Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: April 2020
Subject: April Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips and Special Programs:

Trips scheduled in March and April have been canceled due to Coronavirus

- Grade 8 Washington, D.C. trip is scheduled for May 12 through May 15, 2020. I will share information at the April meeting regarding this trip.

Eastford Readiness Program:
The Readiness Program is full with 17 students. We currently have 17 students (full program) registered for next school year. Kindergarten 2020-2021 currently has 16 students registered.

Eastford Readiness Council Update: April Meeting will be held virtually on April 7, 2020
The Council continues to work on revising and aligning policies to include all components for School Readiness and NAEYC. The Readiness Grant for 2020-2021 school year is due in May pending updates from the Office of Early Childhood.

Data on Student Progress:
All State mandated testing (SBAC and NGSS) has been canceled for this school year.

High School Updates:

- Notification of High School acceptance has been interrupted. The following information shows what we know at this time:

  2 - Ellis Tech – **confirmed**
  2 - ACT – should know by April
  1 - QMC- **confirmed**
  7 - The Woodstock Academy
  0 - E.O. Smith High School
  0 - Killingly Ag Ed
**Professional Development:**
Virtual staff meetings are being held weekly and EastConn has numerous Professional Development offerings to support districts in transitioning to, and sustaining, remote learning. Staff have devoted a great deal of time learning new technology platforms to support students while they are not physically in the school building.

**Following are updates as noted in the April Newsletter:**

**Remote Learning: What does that mean?**
Remote learning will not be like a regular school day! We realize that many families are now working from home and this is all the more challenging when trying to balance the needs of everyone in the household. Everyone’s routines and schedules have changed and it will take us some time to adjust. Our goal with remote learning is to maintain learning and instruction through a blended approach that includes opportunities for remote digital learning, hands-on family centered learning, integrated, project based learning and continuity of existing systems and supports for students, to the extent possible. We are happy to loan out school computers and other resources if families need assistance in this area. Teachers are using email, Google Classroom, and online virtual platforms to communicate with families and students. **Remote learning is not optional for students at this time. It is essential in order to prepare students for the learning and skills that will be needed to keep up with classes when we return!**

**Status of Schools:**
- Governor Lamont has waived the 180-day requirement for schools to be open. This means that we do NOT have to make up all the days we miss for COVID-19 closure as we would if these were weather related closings.
- Currently Governor Lamont has closed all public schools until April 20. President Trump has closed schools until the end of April. We anticipate that this will likely be extended through the end of the school year.
- The last day of school – per our 2019-2020 school calendar, will be June 15. This date includes make up days for the three snow days that we missed earlier in the winter.
- There will be NO “school” or remote learning lessons offered April 10 through April 17 to preserve our scheduled April vacation.
- Parent-teacher conferences, scheduled for April 2 and April 3, were not held. Parents and teachers can discuss progress updates and concerns via email and/or phone calls.
- Graduation dates and decisions about graduation ceremonies are on hold right now.
- Grade 8 annual Washington, D.C. trip is on hold right now, but will likely be canceled. More information regarding this will be sent to grade 8 families when a final decision is made.
- We are moving to a remote learning model so students can continue to receive instruction and practice of skills while they are not physically in the school building.
- Students receiving special education services with an IEP or 504 plan will be provided with more detailed information about services in a separate mailing.
Meals:
Free meals are available for ALL public school children under the age of 18. In Windham County, the following districts are set up to provide free meals to any child 18 years of age or younger. Use the websites listed here or contact the school for more information.

- Killingly: https://www.killinglyschools.org/
- Putnam: https://www.putnam.k12.ct.us/
- Thompson: http://district.thompsonk12.org/
- Windham: https://www.windhamps.org/

School Programs and Facilities:
- Everyone is doing their part to respect social distancing guidelines. For everyone’s safety, teachers and staff are primarily working from home. During this closure period, the building and office will be open from 8:00 to 3:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Administrators and office staff will rotate schedules during the times the building is open.
- We are available by e-mail Monday through Friday.
- Comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting of the building is taking place.
- When packets and materials need to be picked up, please call the school or email to let us know you are on your way. We will place the items you need on a table outside the front entrance. If someone is at the table picking things up when you arrive, please wait a safe distance away, or in your vehicle, until they have finished before you approach the table.
- If you need assistance in obtaining a packet or necessary materials, call the school and we will make arrangements for you to get what you need.

Regular monthly meetings:
Meetings that meet regularly, once a month, will continue to be held virtually.
- School Readiness – April 7 at 2:00 PM
- Board of Education – April 9 at 6:00 PM
- PTO – April 21 at 6:00 PM

Information on how to join one of these meetings can be obtained by emailing Mrs. McCombe (cmccombe@eastfordct.org) for School Readiness and PTO, and by emailing Ms. Gaylor (kgaylor@eastfordct.org) for Board of Education.