

Dr. Darrell J. Lockwood
Superintendent

CHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT, SAU #82
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Sheryl Rich
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March 14, 2020

RE: Letter #4 in reference to COVID-19

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are writing to provide you with more information with regard to our closure of Chester Academy and our move to remote learning activities for our students. **At this time, we have decided to keep our facilities closed and our students participating in remote learning opportunities through Friday, March 27th.**

On Friday evening we were informed that an individual who has been in contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19 had been in our building earlier in the week. This individual was there during after school hours and may have had contact with individuals at the school. We immediately contacted the NH Department of Health and Human Services with this information. Earlier today we notified the NH Department of Education of our plans to close the building to the public and to move to remote learning for our students. These decisions have been based upon our research in reviewing documentation from the NH Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control, and in consultation with the Pinkerton Academy and other Sending School Administrations.

We will continue to monitor the situation and communicate any additional information with you as it becomes available. We appreciate your understanding and apologize for the inconvenience that this change in our program is causing to our families and staff.

It is our intent to have all students continue their learning. School administration and classroom teachers are preparing, assembling and sharing a multitude of learning activities and opportunities for instructional continuity to take place while the building is closed. Please be patient with us. This is the staff's initial effort to implement remote learning over a long period of time. We realize that there will be some challenges, but we don't intend to let the desire for perfection be the enemy of progress. We also know that it will be very different than your child's typical school routine.

As Principal Lacroix mentioned in her telephone and email announcements to you this morning, Cancellation Day #6 assignments will be up on the school's website by 10 AM on Monday, March, 16th. These assignments can be accessed by clicking the Cancellation Days link in the Quick Links on our main webpage (www.ca.sau82.org or www.chesteracademy.org). As with every Cancellation Day, teachers will be available on Monday via email until 2:30 PM to answer any questions regarding these learning assignments. Cancellation Day assignments for Tuesday through Friday as well as next

week will be available no later than 9 AM on the morning the assignment is to be completed. If access to technology is going to be a problem, please let your child's teacher know that. We will make every effort to address this as we move forward.

It is our hope that all students maintain some type of routine. In order to avoid social isolation and the effects that it can have on mental wellness, we encourage you to work with your children to maintain a routine of learning. Keeping regular bedtime and waking hours is a start. Create a learning space, develop a time schedule and be certain to allow for breaks, playtime and of course time for lunch. Afternoon activities will also be important. We know that this will not replace school and it will not be easy. A friend of mine sent me a note that I will share with you and ask you to keep this in mind. She said, *getting outdoors is not cancelled, music is not cancelled, family is not cancelled, nor is reading, singing, laughing and most of all hope is by no means cancelled. Let's embrace what we have!*

As of this notice, Chester Academy is closed and not accessible by anyone except our year round staff and our custodial and maintenance crew. We will provide you with more information on continuity for learning and a reopening of our building as the information becomes available.

All questions regarding the impact COVID-19 has on SAU #82 and Chester Academy should be sent to me at lockwoodd@chesteracademy.org. Please do not hesitate to contact me with specific questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darrell J. Lockwood

Darrell J. Lockwood, Ed.D.