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March 25, 2020

RE: Letter #9 – Update on Remote Learning and More

Dear Parents/Guardians:

First, please accept our best wishes! We hope that you and your family are doing well! We miss having your children grace our doorways each and every day.

It has been just over a week since I sent you any correspondence. Wow! A great deal has gone on in our world since then. It seems to me that as soon as we seem to understand what is to be anticipated, things change. In this correspondence, we will update you on some specifics. These are things taking place here in the Chester School District. While there is much to share, there are some things that still sit in the unknown category.

Remote Learning for students in Chester started on March 19th and is currently scheduled to take place through April 3rd. While those two words, *Remote Learning* roll off the tongues of educators, what do they really mean? The NH Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut, defines it this way, "Remote instruction plus remote support = remote learning." Remote Learning in Chester means everything from assigned paper and pencil tasks done outside of our school building to face-to-face virtual meetings/lessons with your child's teacher.

While Remote Learning will never replace traditional instruction, it is currently the best vehicle for sharing lessons with Chester Academy students. We recognize that families and students will be able to engage in remote learning opportunities at different levels, in different ways, and to varying degrees. We are committed to working with you to support whatever level of engagement works in your home.

Should you have questions regarding expectations or assignments, your child's teacher is your best resource. Please feel free to reach out with feedback or questions about your student's assignments. Teachers are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM to answer student questions. They are all checking their email regularly.

Principal Lacroix has sent you an invitation in an email to participate in a Remote Learning Survey. We look forward to receiving your input and will utilize your responses to adjust our practices.

All students who have Chester Academy IEPs are being provided support and services from our staff. Case Managers are consulting with Teachers, Related Service Providers, and Paraeducators to develop schedules for individual students in order to provide virtual support and related services through *Google Classroom* and/or *Google Meet*. Case Managers and Related Service providers will be providing specialized instruction in conjunction with and supporting the lessons the classroom teacher has designed and assigned. Paraeducators will also be engaged in supporting this work. Should you have questions, reach out to the classroom teacher or the Case Manager working with your child. Communication with parents

has been key in developing this model of support. We appreciate the level of understanding and assistance from these families.

Our School Counselor, Ms. Buck is available to check in with students during the school day. If you notice that your child is feeling worried, anxious, missing their friends, or struggling with the adjustment to learning at home, Ms. Buck may be a good contact to make. Ms. Buck may be reached by email at: bucks@chesteracademy.org.

The Chester Academy and SAU #82 buildings remain closed. There is no public access without specific authorization. We anticipate hearing later this week from the NH DHHS and the NH DOE with regard to when schools might actually reopen. I am asking our staff to begin planning for Remote Learning beyond the current April 3rd end date.

As was stated in our last letter, during this period of disruption, it is critical that students and their families, as well as school staff, stay home as much as possible. If you leave your home, it is essential to strictly follow social distancing guidelines by avoiding crowds, canceling social gatherings, and maintaining a safe separation of at least 6 feet from others. Restricting access to school buildings will have little impact on maintaining public health if these best practices are not followed in good faith by everyone.

Does your child still need a Chromebook? We have created a Sign-Out Form for parents. You will find the form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/KQxPjiECEETSpjJGA>

Trimester 2 Report Cards are now available in *PowerSchool*. IEP Progress Reports will be shared by the end of this week.

We are continuing to offer breakfast and bagged lunches to our students. For more information on the sign up process click [here](#). Should your employment status change and you wish to review the qualifications and forms for free and/or reduced priced breakfast and lunch, you will find them on this [page](#).

As mentioned in earlier letters, on our website (www.sau82.org or www.chesteracademy.org) we have created a COVID-19 page which can be accessed in the quick links. We have added resources for parents to the page and also provide information on who to contact for specific information during the Remote Learning period. You may also find it by clicking [here](#).

I anticipate sending you another letter at the end of this week. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Darrell J. Lockwood

Darrell J. Lockwood, Ed.D.