

May 6, 2020

Dear Families in Region One,

Yesterday, we learned that Governor Lamont requested that all schools remain closed for the remainder of this school year. While we are all sad that we won't be back in our schools to see our students, we understand that this must be done, to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

We know that students and parents have been accomplishing much to see that students are receiving an education while they are at home. Our teachers and administrators have been planning for the past months, so that our students could have the best education possible through distance learning. We understand that students would much rather be in school, able to see their teachers and friends face to face. Time for our children and adults to talk together is so important. We recognize this and are looking to find more ways to make learning even more interesting—something that students look forward to. What is most important for everyone is for our kids to be engaged and for them to want to learn. Please help us as we continue to try our very best to create engaging learning activities for your student. We encourage you to stay in contact with your child's teacher or principal to let us know how your child is doing. We are here to support you through this time.

There are a few other important things for you to know:

Meals for Kids

We are currently serving more than 6,000 meals a week for Region One students and children ages 0-18. Anyone with children who lives in Region One qualifies for meals that are prepared by our schools, the White Hart Restaurant in Salisbury, and social service agencies in our towns. This program is for all families. If you know of families who do not yet know of this opportunity, please share this information. Simply call one of our schools and we will connect with the family.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

We are all very thankful that we have such a generous foundation for those who live in our area. Please know that any person or family who needs help can reach out to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The Foundation:

- 1) Provides funds to nonprofit organizations who are serving basic needs and
- 2) Provides assistance to individuals through town social workers

<https://www.berkshiretaconic.org/bLearnAboutBTCF/COVID-19Response/NorthwestCornerEmergencyResponseFund.aspx>

The Foundation would like Region One families and individuals to know that these funds exist, so please spread the word.

Connectivity Survey

You should have received a web link from your child's principal to take a survey that gives your opinion about the quality of the internet and cell phone service in your area. It's very important that everyone respond to the survey, as we realize that both kinds of services are

not the best they can be in Region One. We realize now, more than ever, the importance of high quality internet. Your response to the survey will help us to communicate with the internet providers and legislators and lobby for a change.

Summer School

Please know that some form of summer school will take place. At this time, there has been no direction from the state about what summer school can look like. With the restrictions in place for COVID 19, we will wait for more guidance from the state. Those students who are not attempting to participate in the distance learning will be expected to attend.

Graduations

High School Seniors are planning with our administrators for ways to have a meaningful ceremony. We are listening to our students and plan to select a date when we can have a ceremony that allows many to participate, without the current social distancing restrictions that currently exist.

For our 8th grade graduating students, our administrators have been discussing about the best ways we can have a ceremony and making it as meaningful as possible for the graduates and their families. If you are the parent of an 8th grader, there will be information coming to you soon about the date and how all of the schools will be showing our students their much deserved special recognition.

Once again, thank you. We are happy to be able to be a partner in your child's learning and success, as we really are all in this together.

With Care,
Dr. Pam Vogel, Region One Superintendent