



Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District

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March 22, 2020

Good Afternoon DY Families,

It was great to see the sun this weekend! I hope you are all staying healthy. We truly appreciate how seriously everyone is taking the social distancing rules. We all hope the steps we are taking will help us end this self-quarantine soon.

As a next step, I would like to ask you to respond to a survey on your technology capabilities at home. This is the link to a short survey that will help us better understand how we can work with your students while school is closed. We would like you to respond by Wednesday, March 25 to help us in our planning. <https://forms.gle/qFD5YbaXPYUp8oY48>

Since the Commissioner said we would have to use our five snow days to account for our first five closure days, we took last week to plan for the next two weeks for our students. We know that this is all very disruptive for our families and we don't expect you all to become teachers. We believe that as parents you are your child's first and an important teacher in their lives, but you usually don't have to do it all alone. So we have some resources to assist you.

Our goals for the next two weeks are to have students practice skills that have already been taught and to engage in enrichment activities that extend their learning. It will likely be most helpful for you to sit down with your child/children and talk about a schedule for the day. We know that our students are used to a routine, so continuing some kind of routine will make it easier for you and them. Remember that during a six-hour school day our students usually have a mix of activity and desk work. Young children will only need 1-2 hours a day of academic work. Middle school children can probably manage 2-3 hours, and high school students 3-4 hours.

To assist you with resources for each age group our Dolphin Learning Plan can be found by accessing this link: <https://www.dy-regional.k12.ma.us/district/covid-19-coronavirus-information/pages/dolphin-learning-plan>. On the website you will find things that directly relate to the curriculum at your child's grade level. These are choices for you and your child. We will not be collecting work or grading it over the next two weeks. We suggest giving your child some choice in the schedule and some of the activities, if possible. Lots of physical activity and brain breaks improve learning. There is no need for tears (students or parents!). If something doesn't work, just let it go. The website does not have an exhaustive list, but what is there has been vetted by our curriculum team and special education department. We will be adding to this as we go. Feel free to use other resources that you have access to.

I want you to know that our educators are anxious to get back to their students. They miss them and want to communicate with them. I have asked them to hold off, so we have a solid district-wide plan for doing so. This week we will be working virtually with teams of educators to develop a comprehensive plan for continuing your students' education should we need to stay

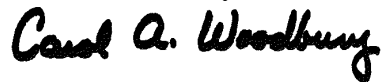
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closed beyond the original three weeks. We are committed to doing whatever we can to help our students continue their education. Along those lines I would like to make you aware of the commitment from Comcast to help you get Internet at home, free of charge, if you do not currently have it. Here is a link to that information: <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>.

Finally, I am sending another article for families that I think is very good advice. The author is the co-founder of the Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center.

Hope you are all staying well. Take care of yourselves. Remember what they always say on the airplane, “Put your oxygen mask on first before helping others.” Everything doesn’t have to be perfect. When all else fails, read to you children and above all else love them. This, too, will pass.

Best wishes always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Woodbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Woodbury
Superintendent of Schools