March 24, 2020

Good afternoon, NLPS families. I hope you are well. It was nice seeing so many of you out at our new food delivery bus stops today. Over 2,000 meals were served to our student body! Please remember that we will continue with this new delivery model, and bus schedule, on Friday. Please find our bus stop times on our district website here: NLPS School Meals on Wheels and social media platforms (Facebook-New London Public Schools and Twitter @NLPSWhalers).

I also want to give a shout out to the staff here at New London Public Schools. We have incredible teams of people working behind the scenes to build a variety of Long-Distance Learning Plans and outreach initiatives and who are continuing to implement food, nutritional and health care services for you and your child. We are also pleased to have multiple avenues of communication in place. Please continue to share your questions and needs with us through our online survey (www.newlondon.org), so we can post responses to these.

Tonight, I wish to share three updates with you:

1. **Technology Device Distribution:**
   - ALL NLPS students, K-12, will be issued a technological device this week.
   - Students in grades K-2 will be issued an iPad.
   - Students in grades 3-5 will be issued a ChromeBook.
   - Students in grades 6-12 will be issued a ChromeBook.
   - All the information you need regarding Device Distribution can be found HERE.
   
   *We ask that families come to pick up their student’s device at the assigned times so that we can continue to keep social-distancing protocols in place. Everyone’s health and safety matters.*

2. **Online Recordings:**
   - Almost 10 storybooks have been read aloud and recorded to be able to be shared in video form. The first read-aloud video will be shared with our families on Thursday. Please be on the look-out for a text message which will provide instructions of how to access these fabulous stories to enjoy with your student and family.
   - Additional video clips starring many, many staff (and community leaders) reaching out with special messages to students are also coming. We truly miss your student and want to stay connected! Families will receive a text message when these are released.

3. **Next Steps Regarding Academic Plans:**
   - Newly designed Distance Learning Plans have been developed for grades:
     - K-5
     - 6-12
   - Families and students will learn details regarding these new courses and assignments in our next district communication going out on Friday, March 27th.
   - NLPS’ Distance Learning Plan will be in effect for all students starting Monday, March 30th.
   - In the meantime, please continue to have students complete their Student Learning Packets and to also visit a wealth of additional online learning opportunities through the new drop-down menu we have added to our district website. Please go to www.newlondon.org and click the tab on the top right that is titled, “Extended School Closure Resources” and select “Distance Learning”. Here families and students will find a lot of other resources to keep them engaged in learning. We are continuing to add to these pages regularly.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ritchie
Superintendent of Schools