March 17, 2020

Dear New London Public Schools’ Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff,

We hope you and your family are doing well. Below are a few more district updates for you.

School Closure:
• Due to the Governor’s recent Executive Order, our schools will now remain closed through March 31st, minimally.

School-Based Health Services:
• Winthrop Elementary School is open only for the purpose of families being able to access the School Based Health Center. Appointments need to be made ahead of time. To schedule, families should call the SBHC administrative offices: 860-437-4555.

Communication Avenues:
• The district will be publishing WEEKLY updates, at a minimum, to all constituents. These are planned to go out each Friday. Communications will be shared through the district website, www.newlondon.org, our district social media sites (Facebook, Twitter), and through School Messenger (phone calls and emails).
• Our district website now has an active COVID-19 survey through which parents, students, staff and community members may submit their questions or concerns. We will be receiving and responding to a variety of questions (in Spanish and English) every few days. These responses will be updated and posted on our website, www.newlondon.org on the dedicated page for COVID-19 information. Almost 40 questions and answers have already been posted on our website. Please use the QR code below, or click on the survey link here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLPS_COVID19.

Food Services:
• New London Public Schools’ Child Nutrition Program will provide an opportunity for families to pick up breakfast, lunch and snacks in a grab and go fashion. This service is for children 18 and
under and for young adults 18-21, who have special needs. Food distribution will occur at four school sites, Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (See sites below.)

Available Sites

- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus, 490 Jefferson Avenue, Gym Entrance
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School, 74 Grove Street, Front Parking Lot
- Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus, 36 Waller Street, Open field on the Lincoln Ave. Side
- Harbor Elementary School, 432 Montauk Avenue, Front Lawn

Children do not need to be present for meals to be provided. This program will be solely for the pick-up of meals, and meals will not be consumed on-site. We encourage families to continue to be proactive in reducing the risk of COVID-19 by not congregating at the school site and utilizing social distancing once meals have been distributed.

Educational Updates and Resources:

- Thank you to those of you who were able to come to the schools on Monday to pick Student Learning Packets. We were able to give out almost 1,000 packets!
- If you were unable to come on Monday, we will continue to hand these resources out to students and families during each of the distributions of meals at Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus (BDJMMSC) and at the New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus (NLHSMC). Meals are distributed 11:30-12:30 Monday through Friday. BDJMMSC will have all K-5 and 6-8 learning packets. NLHSMC will have packets for grades 9-12.
- On Friday, we will be sending out another communication that surveys families and students regarding home access to Wi-Fi. Thank you for sharing your data as we continue to plan forward for extended periods of school closure. We will have new academic resources for you and your child on Tuesday, March 31st.
- Soon we will be posting new visual tools to help keep connections with our students and families. Be on the look-out for recorded webinars and story book read-a-louds.
- Families can also expect to receive phone calls from various school and district staff starting in the next few days.
- The SAT (grade 11) scheduled for next week has been cancelled. More information regarding rescheduling this will be forthcoming.
- AP Exams are also postponed. The College Board plans to share lessons and resources with students who are preparing for AP Exams soon.
COVID-19 Resources:

- Our district website will continue to collate a variety of COVID-19 educational tools and resources. These will be located on a page dedicated to COVID-19 information. We continue to receive this guidance from local and state health professionals and will post such on our district website.

- Any member of the community can call the following HOTLINE number 1-203-668-1700 should they have any questions or need assistance with COVID-19.

- Also posted on our website and social media sites are additional resources on a variety of topics for families. These include other options for free food, social-emotional health resources and more.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ritchie
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Superintendent of Schools