Online Questions submitted March 18, 2020 & March 19, 2020:

1. If we do return to school before the end of the school year will students be required to attend school until June 30th or will students end on the planned last day?
   - Based on the most recent decision from the Governor, no, with a balance of online/distance learning we will offer schooling through June 22.

2. If the children are out the remainder of the year, does this mean they will be held back? Will there be a test for them to take at the beginning of the new school year?
   - All students should follow our Distance Learning Plan throughout the school closure. By completing these assignments accurately, students will be able to demonstrate that they have mastered grade level standards.

3. What will be happening with SBAC and other standardized testing upon our return?
   - These tests have been cancelled for the spring across the country.

4. I’ve heard on news and other media that school is possibly out for a minimum of 6 weeks. Have you heard any details about this and what can you share?
   - This is an ever-changing landscape and we are following guidance from state and federal leaders daily. At this time, we know we will be out through April 19.

5. Will students packet work count? Will we be required to pick up new material bi-weekly? Should students take a picture of their work and send the assignments via email?
   - As our Distance Learning Plan evolves, we will be providing more information. Please watch for additional communications each Friday minimally.

6. I am happy with the communication that Superintendent Ritchie has established with staff and our families. Thank you for being the calm in our storm and for putting children’s safety first!
   - Thank YOU!

7. Will there be an opportunity to get material from the school and have home visits to help parents of children in special education set up a learning space to mimic that in my classroom?
   - If your child is an identified special education student, or a student with a 504 plan, you will receive specific information from the Special Services department.

8. Should I access materials for our magnet school or plan to access materials from our sending districts Distance Learning program?
   - Students should plan to access materials from the school that they are enrolled to attend. NLPS will house all academic assignments on its website.

9. Is school closing for the rest of the year?
   - The Superintendent is keeping everyone apprised as we go and is using information from the Governor and Commissioner of Education’s offices to make those decisions. As of March 23rd, no decision has been made whether to close schools for the year. Currently, the district is closed through April 19, 2020 and weekly updates (each Friday) will be continue to be communicated to students, family and staff.

10. How is it that New London Public Schools is willing to leave some of its employees without a paycheck for all the time we will be shutdown? We hear the superintendent talking about being equitable, but she is letting all the uncertified staff without pay for so long
   - It is untrue that employees have not been paid. All received their regular paycheck on Thursday, March 26th.

11. I was wondering if teachers will still be getting paid bi-weekly.
Teachers are still working and thus will be paid according to the contract. Certified staff should read and implement actions as required by Superintendent Ritchie in her weekly emails to certified staff. The New London Educators’ Association (NLEA) officers are: President Rich Baez and Vice-President Elizabeth Sked. Margaret Lewis is the NLEA secretary. Their email addresses are: BaezR@newlondon.org, SkedE@newlondon.org and LewisM@newlondon.org

12. With the closure of schools until late March, how will this affect the 8th grade students that need 504 plan meetings with the high schools that they are going to?
   • If your child is an identified special education student, or a student with a 504 plan, you will receive specific information individually from the Special Services department regarding required meetings.

13. Are there online learning resources the school can provide? Can/will teachers email parents assignments to ensure the children stay on track?
   • Student Learning Packets can be found on the district’s website under the “Distance Learning” webpage: Distance Learning. We have also place a lot of additional resources, by grade level, on this page through a drop down menu. Additional information will be shared with all families this week regarding instructions for virtual learning.

14. How will I know the school is safe place after all this?
   • While this is a very uncertain time for many, please know that the district is following all guidelines from federal and local health officials including ensuring that proper and effective cleaning protocols are taking place. The Superintendent has closed down several buildings, to ensure they are receiving a deep cleaning without any visitors entering for several weeks.

15. Are there any supplies gloves mask etc. that the school will be handing out to families in case we are out of work / school and our district becomes infected with the Coronavirus?
   • As of right now, there are no plans to distribute these supplies from New London Public Schools. Schools will remain closed so the “district” should not become infected.

16. I know staff is to notify our Administrators if we or any family member tests positive but who are parents to notify? Will we be notified when/if a staff member, member of their family, or student from our school tests positive?
   • Currently, the district is continuing to work closely with City Officials and Ledge Light Health. All confirmed cases in the area are now reported publicly. Staff and students are no longer in the building so we will not be sharing information regarding who tests positive with the school community as it does not affect our schools with people being in their own homes.

17. Suggestion from a teacher regarding assignments to call home: Can we add "student contacted" as a choice in the PowerSchool drop-down menu under log type and can we add "check in" or "classwork communication" in the subtype?
   • Great Idea, our amazing PowerSchool team is working on it now.

18. If we have some failing grades in classes, and schools stay closed through the year 1. Will we pass to the next grade? 2. Will there be a chance for us to communicate with our teachers to discuss our grades?
   • Yes, your teachers will be working with you to allow you a chance to send in make-up work and to prove you are leaning and keeping up with newly assigned assignments through our Distance Learning program.
19. I think the packets are very well put together for these children and we should continue with the packets they’re very helpful especially when you have a child who needs extra help with speech.
   • Thank you! Please know that more information regarding distance learning will be shared, including for students receiving speech services.
20. Are the education packets required? Asking because of transportation reasons.
   • Learning packets were distributed for the first two weeks of closure. These assignments are now also found on our website. Starting Monday, there will be new assignments posted on our website. Please continue to check our district website daily.
21. How can I best support my students while school is closed? How can I best support their learning? How can I access standards so that I know what they should be working on (standards, and assessments so I have a better idea where they are skill wise)? Will devices be made available for at home study?
   • Please view our website frequently as it will provide information on our Distance Learning Plan plus a variety of supplemental learning resources and activities you can do with your child at home. Yes, we are giving out devices Thursday 3/26 and Friday 3/27. Please check our website for specific times.
22. Will the schools send extra work for the little ones?
   • A plan for distance learning has been developed. Please be on the lookout for information this week from Superintendent Ritchie. There is a drop-down menu of resources to be used with students in all grade levels.