



November 23, 2020

Dear Canton Local Families,

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve your children, whether that be virtual, in-person or through remote learning options. We are committed to keeping you up-to-date on our district's status and provide as much information as possible as it is available.

As of last week, we have less than 1% of our students and staff with positive active COVID-19 cases. Countywide we are experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers, and the shortage is one of the main reasons school districts are forced to close a classroom, grade level or an entire building.

Our goal is to keep the district open as long as possible, but it is crucial that as a community, we also plan for what is next. We are taking each day at a time and continually evaluating our options. I believe that the best thing for our students is for schools to remain open. We know how important our essential services like access to breakfast and lunch, counseling and emotional wellness resources, and the safety of a school environment provides to students. We are also cognizant of the hardship closures can have on families.

If needed, the process at Canton Local will be to first temporarily close an individual classroom or school building before closing the entire district. If your child's classroom or building closes, they will be taught remotely. Our plans have remained fluid as the pandemic has evolved, and we will move in and out of remote learning as needed.

Remote learning will be very different from what it looked like last spring. For example, students will follow a daily routine and login to classes at designated times, similar to having a daily schedule while in school. Teachers have reviewed these new expectations and the daily schedules with all students, and students have been practicing using the technology that they will need to use while learning remotely.

Attached you will find our district's remote learning guide and classroom schedule for each grade level. I ask that you review this important information with your student and email your student's teacher should you have any questions. In addition, just as we are preparing for the event that remote learning becomes necessary, we ask that families begin making a plan for any needed childcare arrangements now. This advance planning will smooth the transition from the classroom to remote learning, and your student will be less likely to miss crucial days of instruction.

Our teachers have done a phenomenal job adapting to the ever-changing environment of teaching during COVID-19. Our staff has been trained and is prepared to provide a consistent learning environment for students, whether they are face-to-face or working remotely.

We are all doing what we can to keep students safe inside and outside of school, but as the holiday season approaches, we must follow the appropriate guidelines to keep our schools open. It is up to all of us during our holiday breaks to keep each other safe and slow the spread of this disease. When school resumes after the break, we ask that you please keep your child home if they feel ill or exhibit any symptoms.

I am thankful to be part of the Canton Local community and wish you all a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Steve Milano
Superintendent