

March 27, 2020

Dear Muncy Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health.

The purpose of this letter is to continue to provide updates related to Governor Wolf's closure of schools. First, we would like to let you know what actions we are taking in response to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) guidance. Second, we would like to let you know how we are responding to the feedback you provided in our 'Internet/Wireless Access Survey.' Finally, we would like to provide you with an opportunity to continue to give us feedback so we can work together to respond to the needs of our families.

In accordance with PDE's guidance, we are beginning our 'Continuity of Education Plan' on Monday, March 30th. Although the guidance from the state has been limited, we have collaborated all week with our teachers in order to put forth our best good faith effort; especially as every day, the what-ifs change. While we certainly realize this transition will be imperfect, our teachers and guidance counselors are ready to work with our students and families to make the best of the situation at hand.

I personally want to thank each of you for taking the time to provide responses to the 'Internet/Wireless Access Survey.' After reading the responses to the surveys, I shared several themes from the survey with our teachers. Overall, we have worked together to develop a 'school from home' solution, keeping your feedback in mind.

Please understand it is our hope to strike a delicate balance between moving forward while not overwhelming individuals during these uncertain times. We certainly want to be a source of support, not a source of stress. Your continual feedback will help us determine our blind spots and help us make our plans stronger and more viable as we move forward together. Ongoing communication is essential in helping us overcome the challenges associated with implementing a distance learning solution.

As this is a relatively new learning format for all, it is our intent to keep it simple, take it slow and help all individuals experience short-term wins. In the long-term, it is our hope to use these experiences to grow and build our own capacity throughout the time our buildings remain closed.

Our emphasis is on making a personal connection with the home. In fact, we asked all teachers to make it a priority this past week and next week to establish communication and learning methods for all of our students. More specifically, we hope teachers find creative ways to maintain the personal connection with the home during this period of social distancing. Additionally, we want teachers to find out what methods will work best for you. Please let us know if for some reason you do not hear from your child's teacher.

We have collaborated to create a flexible framework to meet the various needs of our students and families. In fact, our distance learning solution was designed to be able to work with and without access to a device or a wireless network. As we progress through this implementation,

please communicate with your child's teachers any obstacles you may encounter so we can work together to develop solutions that will work for all. Given the circumstances, we are working as quickly as possible to put processes in place to respond to the needs of our individual families. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Overall, we are looking to engage students in relevant, real world activities within the context of their homes. Generally, teachers are to engage students in one objective per week per subject. Where applicable, teachers will try to integrate topics so multiple objectives might be accomplished through one activity. Furthermore, teachers will continue to use enrichment and review opportunities to differentiate activities for students and families. Lastly, we are working to expand our use of non-digital alternatives.

Please see below for important information related to our 'school from home' solution.

- **School Calendar** – Regardless of whether the state reopens school, April 10th will remain a day off in our school calendar. Meanwhile, April 13th and May 22nd will now be school days in our school calendar. Lastly, if the state does not extend the closure past April 9th, our students will not return to school until Monday, April 13th
- **Third Marking Period** – The third marking period will be extended until April 17th. Students will receive a numerical grade for the third marking period. Report cards for the third marking period will go live on April 29th at 1:00 p.m.
- **Fourth Marking Period** – The fourth marking period will run from April 20th until June 5th. The fourth marking period will be considered pass or fail. Passing status will be assigned a numerical grade of 95. Failing status will be assigned a numerical grade of 69.
- **Attendance** – In terms of attendance, we are looking for evidence of student interactions with the teacher throughout the course of the week through the methods of communication that were established with the teacher and student evidence of working toward completion of the weekly objective in each subject.
- **Assessment** – In terms of assessment, students need to show progress towards their understanding of the weekly objective. Teachers are to think outside the box in terms of assessments and provide great flexibility in terms of timelines and formats to develop approaches that will work for all.
- **Virtual Teacher Office Hours** – Virtual teacher office hours will be every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-12 and every Tuesday and Thursday from 12-3. Teacher office hours will be used to provide necessary supports for those who communicate the need for assistance through e-mail, phone, etc. Teachers will also work on differentiated communication opportunities with students and families outside of their scheduled office hours.

- **Teacher Websites** – Teachers will post information for each week no later than 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning. Information for each week should also be shared with students and families through communication methods that have been established with each teacher. For your convenience, we have placed the links to each building’s teacher websites under the COVID 19 reference sections on the school district’s homepage. We will continually look for other ways to help streamline information for students and families.

As stated previously, it is just not the same without all the individuals who make up our Muncy Family bringing our hallways and programs to life. The value of public education is in the relationships between our students and our teachers. We are not under the impression that the methods we must employ as a result of social distancing will completely offset the impact our daily face-to-face interactions have on our students and families. Regardless, we promise to make the most of your child’s education during this temporary school closure. Additionally, after the school year ends, we will look toward providing summer learning opportunities for our students.

As we may need to rely on various technological applications to help facilitate educational experiences for students, we ask for your patience in working through technical issues that may arise from time to time. Additionally, if you choose to have your child participate within a virtual classroom setting, we request your help in maintaining the privacy of the virtual classroom.

Please note the following changes to our food service pick up beginning next week. Pick-up will now be only on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will be providing breakfast and lunch for the entire week at that time. Please see the attached flyer for all of the details.

Please note the OPT is hosting a ‘Virtual Spirt Week’ for Ward L. Myers Elementary School students next week. Parents interested in participating should upload pictures to the OPT Facebook page. Please note, uploading your child’s picture to the OPT Facebook page indicates you have provided permission to publish the photograph. Please see the attached flyer for all of the details. The OPT thought this might be a good opportunity for students and families to connect during this period of social distancing as well as an opportunity to spread positivity.

Please understand that as new guidance is released and the current situation continues to evolve, our plans may have to change in the future. We will continue to provide necessary updates as we move forward together.

If your child’s teacher cannot answer your questions, please forward your questions to the individuals listed below. We will work as quickly as possible to answer individual inquiries.

1. For high school related questions and concerns, please contact Nicole Edwards at nedwards@muncysd.org or 570-546-3125 ext. 3220
2. For elementary school related questions and concerns, please contact Vickie Conner at vconner@muncysd.org or 570-546-3125 ext. 1100

3. For special education related questions and concerns, please contact Cheryl Good at cgood@muncysd.org or 570-546-3125 ext. 1250
4. 4. For food service related questions and concerns, please contact Tom Kuntz at tkuntz@muncysd.org or 570-546-3125 ext. 1120

We look forward to the time we can have all students back in our buildings. In the meantime, please take care of yourselves and your families. Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Craig

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UPDATED 3/27/20

**FREE MEALS AVAILABLE
WHILE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED**

In an effort to improve meal pickup and reduce exposure, **starting Monday, March 30th**, the Muncy School District will only have **one pick up per week**. You will receive one box per child, which will contain enough food for 5 breakfast and 5 lunches. These meals are available for all families and to any child age 18 and younger. Meal boxes will be provided on a first come, first served basis. **Children must be present in order for meals to be provided.** Please stay in your car and meals will be passed through based on the number of children in the car.

Pick up is available only on Mondays at:

**Ward L. Myers Elementary School Front Entrance
From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Cereal, yogurt, muffins and cereal bars are some of the items that will be provided for breakfast. Breakfast bags will also include fruit, juice, and milk. Lunches may include sandwiches, fresh vegetables, fruit or juice and milk.

We encourage families to continue to be proactive in reducing the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) by not congregating at the pick-up site once meals have been distributed, continuing to wash your hands often, sneeze or cough into a tissue, and stay home if you are sick.



Contact the Muncy School District Food Service Department at 570-546-3125 ext. 1120 or tkuntz@muncysd.org if you have questions about this program or need assistance with meal access.

Myers Elementary

SPIRIT WEEK



March 30- April 3

**Show your spirit
each day and post it
to the OPT Facebook
page.**

**March 30
MONDAY**



SUPER HERO DAY

Dress like a super hero in honor of the hospital workers, First Responders, grocery employees, and all other essential personnel.

**March 31
TUESDAY**



CRAZY HAIR DAY

Sport crazy hair in honor of our hair stylists.

**April 1
WEDNESDAY**



SENIOR DAY

Dress like you are 100 in honor of the generation that is most at risk.

**April 2
THURSDAY**



JERSEY DAY

Wear your favorite jersey or sporting attire in honor of your favorite sports team that isn't able to play right now.

**April 3
FRIDAY**



INDIAN DAY

Wear your Myers attire or colors in honor of the students, teachers, and staff that we all miss so much!