



MUNCY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 3, 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. Governor Wolf announced earlier this week that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools will remain closed, until further notice. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has received formal United States Department of Education (USDE) approval of Pennsylvania's waiver request from federal assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements for 2019-20 school year. A copy of Assistant Secretary Brogan's approval has been added to the website as a reference document for your review. Additionally, recently passed legislation waived the following requirements related to career and technical education programs: (a) the minimum total number of hours and (b) the National Occupancy Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exams.

PDE remains in touch throughout this process and continues to provide updated guidance and resources on continuity of education for students. For example, PDE has partnered in recent weeks with the statewide leads for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) to offer communities use of instructional programming that is being broadcast by all of Pennsylvania's PBS affiliates. Each PBS affiliate is providing instructional blocks of programming targeted to different grade spans varying by region. It is my understanding our VIA PBS changed its afternoon television schedule from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to air programs that can provide learn-at-home opportunities for students. Each program airing during this block will have curriculum and additional resources that parents and educators can use for students in grades 4-12. More specific information can be found at <https://www.learningathomepa.org>.

As we progress through the implementation of our 'school from home' solution, 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. We will be virtually meeting with our teachers next week to listen to concerns and use their experience and leadership in helping to support the diverse needs of our students and families. Thank you for your continued patience, flexibility, cooperation and support as we move forward together.

Our School Counseling department wants to let you know they are here to support you and your children during this time at home. Please visit their school webpages for resources that you might find helpful. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you or your children have any questions or concerns. Contact information for our counseling staff is below:

- Erik Berthold (10-12 School Counselor) – eberthold@muncysd.org
- Jeanne Rogan (7-9 School Counselor) – jrogan@muncysd.org
- Jean Daniels (K-6 School Counselor) – jdaniels@muncysd.org

Additionally, The Department of Human Services (DHS) has partnered with the Center for Community Resources to offer a 24/7 mental health and crisis support line for people dealing

with anxiety or other difficult emotions. Callers will be able to speak with staff who are trained in trauma-informed principles and will listen, assess the person's needs, triage, and refer to other local supports and professionals as needed. The Mental Health Support Line can be reached toll-free, 24/7 at 1-855-284-2494.

Yesterday, Sheetz announced a new Kidz Meal Bagz program providing free food to help children and families as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will start April 2, 2020 and be available for a period of two weeks at which time it will be reevaluated based on community need. Meal Bagz will be available all day and will include a turkey sandwich, chips and a drink. Families interested in taking advantage of the free Kidz Meal Bagz program should go to participating Sheetz locations and ask an employee at the register for a meal. Families will be offered one bag per child and meals will be available daily while supplies last. The Kidz Meal Bagz program will be available at 293 stores across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. A full list of participating locations can be found here: <https://www.sheetz.com/news/kidzmeals>

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 continue to 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. 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 a 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,



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