



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

“Every Child’s Success is Our Mission”

Ph: 413-772-1310 / Fax: 413-772-1379

Jordana B. Harper, Superintendent of Schools

March 25, 2020

Dear GPS Families:

This afternoon, Governor Baker announced during a press conference that schools across the state of MA will remain closed for an extended period of time, until May 4, 2020.

I understand that this raises many questions for families, and presents new challenges for our teachers and students as we work to provide continuity of students’ learning, keep students engaged, and address important needs like continuing to provide student meals. Meal service will continue during the closure. Since the Governor announced the closure of our schools, I have worked tirelessly to advocate for students and families in Greenfield, including those without access to computers or internet at home and students with special needs. I am collaborating with our teachers and administrators on how best to support all of our students and families during this challenging time.

Given this new information from the Governor on long-term closure of schools, the MA Commissioner of Education, Mr. Jeffrey Riley, announced this afternoon at a press conference with the Governor that the Department of Education would be providing school districts additional, structured guidance regarding remote learning plans in the coming days. This would allow school districts to revise and implement new learning plans, with the goal of implementing these new plans for students by early April. The Commissioner stated, “Our focus as an educational community during this time is on the needs of our students, especially our neediest students.”

The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has also applied for waivers with the Federal government to address the state’s annual testing requirements (MCAS), and will provide more information when it becomes available. The Commissioner will be sending a letter to families outlining this information and more.

We know these changes bring some challenges and we want to reassure you that we are available to help you as best as we can. Today we are launching a more intensive team of educators in the district, to accelerate our development of distance learning supports, as well as to be responsive to changes in guidance regarding special education, etc. Changes from the state and federal governments are coming to districts very quickly, and we are working hard to keep you informed and up to date.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or principal with any specific questions, and look for more structured ways for us to support your child’s learning in the coming weeks.

If you have not already seen it, you may watch the Governor and Commissioner of Education’s press conference by clicking here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVAnenJcM2c&feature=emb_title

Resources for families related to learning while schools are closed, updated daily:
<https://www.gpsk12.org/gps-district/student-family-resources-learning>

The Greenfield Public Schools is committed to maintaining a discrimination-free environment for all students, families, and employees. Greenfield Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

“Every Child’s Success is Our Mission”

Ph: 413-772-1310 / Fax: 413-772-1379

Jordana B. Harper, Superintendent of Schools

All resources related to COVID-19 are available here: <https://www.gpsk12.org/gps-central/administration/important-guidance-and-resources-regarding-coronavirus>

GPS Youtube Channel with educational videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh3OvM73hySBKSdjt8z1NhA>

Thank you for your cooperation. Please follow the expert advice to stay home if you can, and keep your families safe and healthy!

Sincerely yours,

Jordana B. Harper
Superintendent