



Michael Wilson
Superintendent of Schools
mwilson@seymourschools.org

Vonda Tencza
Associate Superintendent
vtencza@seymourschools.org

May 5, 2020

Good Morning Seymour Families,

It was so GREAT seeing all of you yesterday during our TEAM SEYMOUR car caravan. Your signs of appreciation and well wishes were so inspiring and encouraging. We miss all of our students and families, so it was so nice to see all of you yesterday.

This morning, the Governor announced that our schools will physically be closed for the remainder of the 2019 – 2020 school year in order to keep all of us safe. This being the case, we will continue to use our distance learning platform throughout the remainder of our school year which will end on June 12, 2020. As you know, our teachers and administrators are working hard to provide the best possible learning opportunities to our students and that was evident today. The role that they play in the lives of our students is a testament to their dedication and to the passion that they exhibit towards education and for that, we are beyond grateful. As George Evans stated: “Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way”. Our staff have all found a way to connect with our students during these unique times and that is what is continually helping them to learn. Their ability to adapt has made it possible for our students to achieve success because they know how to motivate and inspire our learners to achieve to their fullest potential.

Since we will now be undertaking distance learning for the remainder of this year, we just ask for you continued support as we continue to grow with the use and implementation of our digital learning platform. While this news is not what anyone of us wanted to hear, it is something that ensures safety for all of our students. I will continue to post the audio of me reading stories to our students as a way to promote reading and to stay connected while we are apart until next year.

Lunch for All

- We will continue to provide lunch 3 days a week for pick up at Seymour Middle School. Pick up times are between 11:00am and 1:00pm. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

We want to once again reiterate that Seymour Public Schools recognizes this is a concerning time for all and that no digital plan will ever replace your child’s teacher and we want to thank you for your continued patience and partnership! As always, all staff are here to help in any way needed to ensure an equitable learning experience for students. Please note that for the remainder of the year while working remotely, our staff will be expected to be actively engaged in work during the hours of 8:00am -2:00pm and to be available for calls, video conferencing if the teacher chooses, email and messaging exchanges, and the like. All staff that are expected to work will be available by email or other form of acceptable electronic communication to support students who are working on these learning assignments, assist families, or reply to questions or requests.

Please continue to look on the following mediums for any communications from our schools:

- Seymour Schools Facebook
- Seymour Schools website

Since we are not physically returning to school for the 2019 – 2020 school year:

- **THEN** we will hold High School Graduation Ceremony on July 10, 2020 at 6:00pm provided the STAY HOME STAY SAFE ORDER has been lifted prior to this date. A communication from SHS will come out regarding the possibility of this. If this is not possible, a virtual graduation will be coordinated.
- **THEN** we will set up a schedule where students and staff will be able to come in to collect their belongings for their summer vacation.
- **THEN** Moving Up and Promotion Ceremonies in grades K, 5, and 8 will be cancelled.
- **THEN** Kindergarten registration will take place using a digital platform on which you will receive further details from our Student Registration Specialist, Cathy Guerra.
- **THEN** every effort will be made to hold Kindergarten, grade 6, and grade 9 orientation in August of 2020.
- **THEN** EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR, as well as a Credit Recovery Program will hopefully begin on July 6, 2020 provided the STAY HOME STAY SAFE ORDER has been lifted prior to this date. If it is not lifted, then information about distance learning platforms for these will be communicated.

As we know, flexibility is the key to support distance learning along with supporting individual students and families. Please remember it is the students for whom we are here. Keeping their learning in mind and us making our best efforts to achieve this, will help us to get through this.

If you have any questions about COVID-19, please call 2-1-1. Please be assured that my team will continue to monitor the situation daily and will keep you informed as changes occur.

Please make every effort to keep your families safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson
Superintendent