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March 12, 2020

Good Afternoon Seymour Families,

While we expect to update you all again later this afternoon after another conversation with our Governor and Commissioner of Education, this letter contains information of what we currently know. We continue to work closely with our local Naugatuck Valley Health Department, community stakeholders, head nurse, and the recommendations of the CDC (Center for Disease Control) every day in order to respond safely and responsibly to the new information and guidelines in regards to the COVID-19 (Corona) virus. This week superintendents across the state have participated in conference calls with state officials to discuss recommendations for minimizing the likelihood of contracting COVID-19. At this time, we are following the recommendations of CT state officials and following the procedures below to minimize risk to our students, staff, and families.

Cleaning Protocols

We continue to disinfect our schools daily in order to help minimize the spread of germs.

- Children are provided frequent opportunities and reminders to wash their hands, particularly at lunch and after recess/physical education periods.
- Per All Star, buses are being cleaned daily at the end of each day.

Field Trips/Events

Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19, at this point Seymour will make bi-weekly decisions on holding school and outside events. Please note that these decisions could change at any moment.

- At this point, any field trips and events that bring in people other than our students, or events where we leave the district are cancelled/postponed for the next two weeks, March 16-March 27. It is possible that some of these events will be rescheduled and individual buildings will communicate that information out as it becomes available and appropriate.
- Building principals will be communicating decisions regarding the cancellation of events that involve their students or parents and we will update our website school calendars within the next few days, and ongoing, as frequently as possible.
- Events and trips scheduled after March 27 have not been cancelled as of today. Decisions will be made as circumstances are monitored, and student and staff safety remains our hallmark decision point.
- We are reviewing upcoming outside facilitators and conference attendance on a daily basis to limit potential exposure to the virus.
- Our parent-teacher conferences conclude today, and as a reminder, any parent not able or comfortable attending is invited to contact the child's teacher to arrange a phone conference.

School Calendar

- At this point the Governor and Commissioner of Education are not recommending distance learning due to equity and access to learning concerns. Seymour is honoring this recommendation.
- Should Seymour Schools need to close, we will treat these closures as we do inclement weather days and make up days after the pre-determined last day of school in June, as well as during April vacation.
- As this is an area of great uncertainty, families should make preparations accordingly for childcare if school is closed for an extended period of time.
- Additionally, consideration should be given to not making travel plans prior to June 30, 2020.

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Communication

We will continue to utilize the following avenues of communication for regular updates. School cancellations, should they occur, will be communicated in the same manner that weather-related issues are communicated.

- Seymour Schools Facebook
- Seymour Schools website
- Blackboard Connect

We are continuing to monitor the situation daily and will keep you informed as changes need to occur. Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time. Should you have questions or need support, please contact your building administrator or the office of the superintendent of schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson
Superintendent