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March 23, 2020

Good Evening Seymour Families,

Today was a great first day of distance learning. I was extremely impressed by the hard work and dedication that was demonstrated today by all of our team members. Our teachers and administrators are working hard to provide the best possible learning opportunities to our students and that was evident today. We ask for your continued patience as we continue to learn and grow with the use and implementation of our digital learning platform. As you know, we miss our students already and hope that we get to see them back in school in the near the future. This being the case, I decided to also try some distance learning with you as well. I decided to do something that I love to do when our students are in school, which is reading to them. If you click on these two links for your children, they will be able to hear me read two stories to them. Here are the links: https://youtu.be/e9yZJxVpa_c and <https://youtu.be/pyQvvSnjRuU>. I will continue to post the audio of me reading stories this week.

As of 1:00pm on Saturday, 750 Chromebooks were distributed to our wonderful Seymour students. If for some reason you missed any of these three dates, you will need to contact your building Administrator to let them know. We are currently going through our inventory and should be able to accommodate filling a minimal amount of additional requests for a final pickup on Thursday morning between 10:00am and 11:00am at Seymour Middle School provided that the google form has been completed prior to pick-up. Here is the link for the form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/IN8iYbfmBGx1LqRT0fvrNbLM5UrzFWO1ZjBcc-QZy8Ls/edit>

While we realize that the distance learning content is indeed impressive we kindly ask that you please refrain from taking pictures, screenshots, or recordings of teachers and or student/teacher created content. We do not allow taking pictures of board work or of each other in the physical classroom, so we ask that we continue this practice in our digital classroom.

We also wanted to update you on the latest from Governor Lamont in terms of our return to school. Per Governor Lamont, effective on March 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m., schools will remain closed through April 22, 2020. While this can change, this is the most up to date information that we have at this time. We will continue to use our distance learning platform up until we are physically able to return to school. Our community will continue to get through this as a team!

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.

School Nurses are available to help

- During this concerning time, we are aware that you may have medical questions in regards to your child. We have given you different phone numbers that you can call provided by the United Way (211) if you have any questions in regards to COVID-19. We also want you to know that our district nurses will be available between the hours of 8am and 2pm to answer any medical questions you may have. If the nurse does not have your specific answer, she will guide you in the best direction to get all your

answers met. You can email your individual nurse and ask any question you may have and they will get back to you within that 8:00am to 2:00pm time frame. We want you to know that you are not alone and the staff here in Seymour are willing to assist in any way we can to help with your questions or concerns. Stay healthy! Here is a list of our Nurses by their assigned building along with their contact information:

- Rebecca Bennett RNC
Seymour Schools Head Nurse
Bungay Elementary School Nurse
- Lindsey Grailich RN
Seymour High School Nurse
- Deborah Julian RN
Seymour Middle School Nurse
- Lisa Reynolds RN
Chatfield Lopresti School Nurse

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 during this time of 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

As we know, flexibility is the key to support distance learning along with supporting individual students and families. Please understand that this is a new process for everyone and we may need to make changes as we go, but 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

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