



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road, Acton, MA 01720

www.abschools.org (978) 264-4700

March 13, 2020

Dear families,

As a reminder, our schools will remain closed through Friday, March 20th. It is important for families to understand that this is an initial determination, and as we monitor the outbreak next week, it is likely that this may lead to a longer closure.

We want to reiterate that closing our schools are only a part of the broader solution to prevent community spread of this virus. If students and families continue to meet together in groups outside of school, this initial 6-day closure will not have the desired impact. ***It is critical that students and families refrain from meeting in large groups and to practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC.***

We want to start by thanking our leaders and educators for their incredible efforts over the last few days to adapt to a challenge that our schools have never before undertaken. Just a decade ago, it would have been impossible for our educators to maintain connections with students during a school closure like this one. This has required significant flexibility and creativity from all of our staff. We are sure to have bumps in the road over the week, but we hope that your children feel a sense of connection to their teachers and schools during this challenging time.

Social-Emotional Connections and Enrichment Opportunities

The goal of our schools and classrooms while we are away is not to replicate the school and classroom environment, teach "lessons" to students, or to provide online learning. We know that we cannot accomplish this in an online environment while maintaining equity for all of our learners. Instead, the major goals we have are to provide students with:

1. Structure and social-emotional connection to school
2. Enrichment activities that help our students feel engaged

Certified staff and building-level administrators will continue to communicate with families about how this will happen at each school. Teachers at the junior high school and high school will reach out to students with information about their individual class enrichment opportunities. We have developed a district-wide set of elementary enrichment resources that can be accessed on our website under [Learning Opportunities](#).

We know this will not be perfect as we venture into a school closure like this for the first (and hopefully last) time. If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher or your child's principal.

Food Availability and Community Resources

ABRSD will offer bag lunches to families Tuesday 3/17, Thursday 3/19, and Friday 3/20 for pick-up outside the main entrance to the High School. Pick up time will be from 11:30am-1:00pm. Individuals picking up bag lunches cannot enter our schools and should practice appropriate social distancing measures.

While schools are closed, families may find they need assistance from community agencies. Both Acton and Boxborough have Community Services Coordinators who can connect you with additional resources and supports. For their contact information and additional resources, click [HERE](#).

Technology Availability

Comcast is providing families who struggle financially with an Internet Essentials package, where qualifying customers will receive two free months of Internet service. For more information, click [HERE](#).

As we move through next week, we will continue to communicate with you at the classroom, school, and district level. We remain committed to supporting you to the greatest extent possible during this time.

Sincerely,

ABRSD Leadership Team