



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

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March 16, 2020

Dear families,

We came across this quote from Oregon principal Dr. Amy Fast (@fastcrayon) Tweeted, *"This global crisis will give students an education that we could never adequately simulate in schools: an enduring appreciation for our interdependence, a real grasp of the relationship between personal responsibility and freedom, and actual experience with how to truly be still."*

Critical Information

Per the order from Massachusetts Governor Baker, our schools will now remain closed through Friday, April 3rd and are currently scheduled to reopen Monday, April 6th.

We want to reiterate that closing our schools is only one piece of the broader solution to prevent community spread of this virus. If students and families meet together in groups outside of school, widespread closures will not have the desired impact.

To prevent community spread of coronavirus, we ask that students, families and community:

- Wash hands regularly
- Practice [social distancing](#) (maintaining 6 feet or more between yourself and another person, not meeting with others in person)
- Refrain from using school district playgrounds (some data show the virus may live on surfaces for multiple days)
- Refrain from gathering in groups on district playing fields

Some suggestions for students during this closure:

- Get outside! (But remain 6 feet from people other than immediate family members.)
- Use online platforms/apps to socialize with peers, doing so in a way that is respectful and kind.

Educator Schedules During the Closure

Our educators will be available Monday through Thursday during the weeks of March 16 and March 23. For these two weeks only, educators will not be working or available on Friday, 3/20 and Friday, 3/27. This will allow us to use these two days at the end of the year, since our last day is now Tuesday, June 23. After March 27, our educators will be available five days per week, Monday through Friday.

Communication During Closure

Due to a high volume of emails over the last few weeks, we have been unable to respond to all individual emails and effectively plan for our coronavirus response. Please accept our apologies if we did not respond to your email in a timely manner.

As we progress through this closure, we would like to remind everyone that communication should continue to flow through our [Parent Communication Map](#). This map allows us to address concerns quickly and at the point of contact closest to the concern. It also allows our administrators to have sufficient time to plan for circumstances in the moment.

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. 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 this 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.

Closing Thoughts

As we have said before, we are in uncharted waters as a school district. We know that the education plan we have developed will evolve as our educators and administrators adapt to the new reality of an extended school closure. In the meantime, we would like to ask all of our students and families to set reasonable expectations of themselves and our educators, practice self-care, and embrace the responsibility we have for each other's well-being during this crisis.

Sincerely,

ABRSD Leadership Team