

March 17, 2020

Dear Warrior Tribe:

Thank you for your support and collaboration over the last several days. District plans for our long-term closure unfolded rapidly. Every decision that is made is based on information and procedures we are provided at the time. One of our challenges has proven to be the constantly changing rules and increasing demands of our bureaucracy.

As you are aware, our current expectation is that we will be closed through April 13th. It is unlikely that we will open sooner, but Governor Cuomo noted in his morning address that schools could be reopened as early as April 1st. He also identified that it is safe to assume there will be a series of two-week closures. I respect his position to take this pandemic two weeks at a time.

According to Governor Cuomo, the estimated peak of COVID-19 is 45 days out. With this information, district leaders have been increasing talks around how we can deliver instruction differently. As noted in yesterday's letter, we are looking for ways to provide accommodations to those with special needs and limited access to technology. While these solutions and accommodations are being organized, we will continue to work with our instructional teams to implement opportunities for new learning.

We are exploring alternative instructional options like virtual face-to-face interaction, recorded lessons, phone conferencing, etc. Principals are collaborating with teachers to identify the best way to support your children's educational interests.

Please take the opportunity to participate in our Thought Exchange. We review the information collected several times a day to help determine our priorities and direction. The exchange continues to be live at: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/496234728>. To access the Thought Exchange from a cell phone, the following may be easier: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/496234728>.

One generated thought suggested we find ways to support our students with mental health needs such as those dealing with anxiety (or anything else). In response, our counselors will be working with Mr. Fairbrother to develop a system to deliver services uniquely. If you have a child who would benefit through remote counseling, please call Mrs. Freeborn at 315-684-9196 or email: cfreeborn@m-ecs.org.

I could write several paragraphs about the pride I have in our faculty, staff, leadership team, and Board of Education. Today, I'd like to single out our food service department. This group has stepped up to the plate to serve our children. Every member of the food service department has been identified as essential employees during this crisis. They are some of the few that will be required to physically come to work during any form of shutdown. Be sure to thank those you know or see.

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Regarding school lunches, the district envisions having a system where varied options will be available. When we tried to deliver the food choice in today's meals, we ran into some obstacles. As a result, meals were provided, but varied choices were not. Over time, we hope to be able to evolve and provide enhanced options. Please continue to show patience as we work through these obstacles.

Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Avery, is taking on the food service challenges we experienced. We will continue to provide lunches to those who received one today. There is no need to resubmit your order. If you wish to cancel your participation or request meals in the future, please contact Mrs. McCann at 315-684-9158.

This is a challenging and frightening time, filled with chaos and confusion. We are doing our part to protect those around us with underlying conditions who are most at-risk. We all have someone in our life who we love that we need to make sacrifices for during this short period of time to keep them healthy. This will eventually be over.

I am proud to serve this community. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory Molloy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory Molloy