LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit Thirty

"Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way"

Steve Tucker, Superintendent of Schools

Amy N. Hinds, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Christine Blouin, Business Administrator

March 15, 2020

Dear Laconia School District Community,

Today, Governor Chris Sununu announced that school districts will be closed to students for the next three weeks. During this period, he is allowing school staff members up to a week of planning and preparation to launch a remote learning plan and two weeks for students to attend school virtually. To this end, students will be out of school in the Laconia School District from Monday, March 16th until Friday, March 20th. Students will begin remote learning on Monday, March 23rd until Friday, April 3rd. The Governor will later determine whether public schools in our state need to remain closed for a longer period of time.

Though these are unique times, I am proud to be a part of a city where our community leaders and a variety of stakeholders are coming together for our schools. Some of our leadership team met with the Mayor, City Council and other community partners in a public meeting to discuss the impact of a school closure on our city and to talk about how the school community will be supported. We had a productive planning session as a leadership team after receiving valuable input from our city leaders.

This week, our staff will be working on preparing lesson plans, activities and assignments for students so that we can begin remote learning on Monday, March 23rd. Students in grades Pre-K to 4 will use a paper option. We are working on providing devices for students in grade 5 so that they can engage in 1:1 learning. Online learning will be used with middle and high school students in grades 6 through 12. We will provide paper options for students with no Internet access. This week, we will work on a plan to distribute devices to students and staff who need them.

There are many logistics that have to be considered to support our students in a remote learning environment. We are currently working on systems to ensure that our students have food, medical assistance, academic supplies and support, computers for those who need them, counseling services, technology assistance, and interventions. There will be more information going out to staff and families as we finalize these plans.

The reason that schools are closed in New Hampshire is to limit the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. It is important that students stay home. We understand that closing schools presents challenges to our families. We will be sending out information this week about what these days could look like for your children.

Time and time again, I have seen this community come together during difficult times to support our children. I have great faith that we will do so during this time.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility.

Steve Tucker Superintendent

Laconia School District