

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices 155 Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01852

March 20, 2020

Dear Lowell Public Schools Families,

As we wrap up our first week of closure due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), I just want to say thank you to our entire LPS community for the devotion shown to our children during this time of need. We will be able to get through this difficult situation because of the combined dedication and commitment to our youth.

As we plan forward into next week, I want to take a moment to relay some of the services and resources that became available this week for our students and families.

Monday marked the first day of our **grab-and-go lunch service** provided at nine locations throughout the district. Starting next week, we will be able to further expand our meal service by including breakfast. This means that at the regularly scheduled food service locations, families will be able to pick up lunch as well as take home breakfast for the following morning. You can find the locations and times of this service by checking our website: https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/3776.

On Wednesday, we launched a website providing **online learning resources** for our students, and hard copy enrichment packets were made available at each lunch site both yesterday and today. These online resources and enrichment packets include optional activities that support our children's learning at each grade level and across various subject areas. Please visit the Lowell Public Schools website to see these online learning resources: https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/homelearning.

To support literacy at home, we have launched a YouTube channel devoted to posting **virtual read-alouds** by teachers and principals across the district. See our educators reading their favorite books to help our students stay engaged while schools are closed. You can access the YouTube channel by searching for "Lowell Public Schools Virtual Read Alouds" on YouTube, or by clicking here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMlgoXopDU-6yfq5pJIPRtg/.

Per Governor Baker's order, the Lowell Public Schools will continue to be closed until Monday, April 6, 2020. Between now and April 6, please continue to check our website and Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest updates regarding this situation. In exercising caution for everyone's health and safety, both the Central Office and Family Resource Center (FRC) will remain closed to the public, with all staff working remotely. However, families can still access limited services by calling the Central Office at 978-674-4320, or calling the FRC at 978-674-4321.

Just like this week, our community will continue to rally together in the weeks ahead. During this tough time, as we always do, we will move forward together and support one another as one district, one community, one Lowell.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joel D. Boyd

Superintendent of Schools