

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

243 Thorne Hill Road, Shickshinny, PA 18655

570-542-4126

www.nasdedu.com



Joseph F. Long Jr.
Superintendent

Kristy Straub
Business Manager

Ryan Miner
Secondary Principal

Matthew Mills
Secondary Assistant Principal

Cassidy Shults
Elementary Principal

Mary Agnes Kratz
Acting Special Education Director

Adam Sorber
Technology Director

Barry Shoemaker
Facilities Manager

April 27, 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As you may be aware, on Monday, May 4, 2020, the Northwest Area School District will begin offering distance learning opportunities, including enhanced review and enrichment activities, as well as new instruction, to its student body. This distance learning is being made available to ALL District students, regardless of his or her instructional level. All instruction and services, including related services, will be provided to students in accordance with their IEPs.

- Special Education services/programming and Gifted Education:

***IEPS/GIEPS** will be completed in accordance with existing due dates. Your child's case manager will contact you to arrange a phone or virtual conference. To the extent that these documents require revision upon school's reopening, they will be revised in a timely manner.

***Reevaluations** will be completed, to the extent possible, in accordance with the current due dates. In the event that additional information is deemed necessary upon school's reopening, a Permission to Reevaluate will be issued in a timely manner.

***Initial Evaluation Reports** will be completed within the current due dates. To the extent that a determination cannot be made with the existing information, a new Permission to Evaluate will be issued upon school's reopening.

***Existing Special Education Placements** – Students currently receiving services will return to their existing educational placement upon school's reopening.

- All Special Education students will be offered access to educational opportunities during the ongoing school closure. Case managers have been, and will continue, communicating directly with parents. Please ensure that case managers have the most current contact information for you to ensure ongoing communication. For those students who do not have internet access, case managers will communicate by phone and arrange for paper and pencil packets to be compiled and delivered and later returned to the respective teachers for feedback. Additionally, the District has provided resources to parents for free internet service. Additional resources will be communicated as they become available. Ongoing information and updates can be accessed via the District's

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website. Additionally, case managers will contact parents/guardians to discuss any accommodations that may be needed for students to access these opportunities.

- Activities for lessons/instruction and activities, review, remediation, reinforcement, and/or enrichment on previously learned materials will be available via Google classrooms and paper and pencil packets. Students who attended out of District placements prior to the closure will receive additional information directly from those placements.
- Students are expected to complete all activities. Students will be evaluated on their level of participation. Teachers will provide feedback on the content of the work submitted.
- In good faith, all related services will be provided, to the best of the District's ability.
- Caseload managers will continue to contact you and your child to assist in answering general questions and navigating the website and educational tools available, as well as to discuss your child's individual needs and services.

Please know that the Northwest Area School District appreciates your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. We understand that this response to the school closings may not be perfect for every student or family, however, the District is providing these services in a good faith effort to continue instruction for all students. Once we are able to reopen school buildings for students, IEP teams will review each student's individual progress to determine the best course of action moving forward.

We are all in this together and we are learning as we move forward. If you are in need of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask. As noted above, your case managers are available to you and are waiting to assist you during this time. Also, please feel free to reach out to me for any general assistance or concerns that you may have, and we will work through them together.

Sincerely,

Mary Agnes Kratz
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