March 27, 2020

Dear Families,

On March 23, 2020 we were informed by Governor Wolf that all Pennsylvania schools will remain closed at least through April 8th with the first student day commencing on April 9, 2020. This date falls over a holiday break and, as a result, Greencastle-Antrim students will not physically return to school until April 13, 2020. During this time of closure, we will be contacting each family to discuss options for continuing support through special education.

We are aware and appreciate that your child’s needs may be different from others; our special education teachers are committed to making every effort to educate your child while providing meaningful opportunities to maintain and teach new skills. This unprecedented event is challenging educators in ways that we never imagined and we realize that it is challenging you, as families, in many more ways. Your child’s teacher should have reached out to you to discuss options for continuing education and what this may look like as we move toward virtual instruction. Notice will be sent to each family with specific information for your child. If your child receives instruction through the Lincoln Intermediate Unit, you should have received a letter discussing options for continuing education through their programming.

During the school closure, districts continue to be under the obligations of Federal and State mandated special education timelines. We have outlined steps the District is taking during the closure:

1. We will continue to keep your child’s special education paperwork (annual IEPs or Reevaluations) up-to-date and compliant with special education timelines. Your child’s teacher will be reaching out to you to discuss meeting options that may include: virtual meetings, phone conferences, email discussions, etc. We will attempt to have all required members present, but may have to waive some depending on individual circumstances. Signatures will be gathered upon return to school.

2. When school reopens, the IEP team will reach out to you to review your child’s progress and assess the impact of this closure on your child. If needed, we will schedule a meeting with you to determine next steps in addressing any potential services that may be necessary to help your child get back on track.
We are all looking forward to our return to school! Please know that we appreciate your patience and support as we navigate these uncharted waters. Our special education teachers are available to answer questions or concerns as they arise. Additionally, do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance through this process at gthompson@gcasd.org.

Sincerely,

Ginger L. Thompson

Director of Special Education

Greencastle-Antrim School District