March 12, 2020

Good evening, P-TECH Parents.

As you have learned, NPS schools will operate a half-day schedule tomorrow, March 13, and all schools will be closed Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27. In response to the school closure, P-TECH will implement distance learning during this time.

During the half-day tomorrow, students will participate in a special schedule; all eight periods will meet. This special schedule allows students to meet with all of their teachers prior to leaving for the two-week school closure. This is also an opportunity for students to gather all of their necessary school materials, including books, materials, musical instruments and most importantly, their Chromebook and charger. Chromebooks will be provided to students who indicated on the Tech Survey that they are without technology; those students should come to the P-TECH office to sign out the Chromebook with the understanding that it must be returned when school reopens.

**Distance Learning (March 16 – March 27)**

Distance learning requires that every teacher create a Google classroom, the district's preferred online learning platform with which students are most familiar. Students have or will be invited to each teacher's classroom and will be required to participate in an abbreviated schedule. **The student day begins at 8:00 am and ends at 12:00 pm. Fifty minutes class periods, periods 1 - 4 , will run on alternating A and B days and attendance will be taken every period. Students should follow their current schedule with the understanding that periods have been shortened.**

To ensure consistency and alignment within each department, teachers in the math and computer science, humanities, and business departments met today to begin development of protocols and distance learning curriculum. The Humanities Department (English and Social Studies) will engage students in collaborative online reading/writing discussions, compositions, and revisions using platforms such as, but not limited to, Google Classroom and Google Meet. Similarly, the Business Department will utilize Google Classroom and Google Meet to facilitate instruction. Students will engage in a remote, authentic business style of learning. Lastly, the Math and Computer Science Department will review and practice content which has been covered in previous units of study. In addition, teachers will integrate literacy skills while connecting math skills and concepts to the real world. Students will continue to review fundamental concepts of computer science, both through programming and learning about the field of computer science.

**Support Services**

We understand that the transition from in-class to distance learning may prove challenging for some; however, we will provide supports to students as we do during the "regular" school day. To guarantee continuity of services, our school counselors, social worker and interventionist will be available daily. Specific information related to services provided is included below:

**School Counseling**

Grades 9 and 10: Mrs. Wiltshire-Toth (Wiltshire-tothc@norwalkps.org)
Grades 11 and 12: Debra Costello (costellod@norwalkps.org)

- Counselors will be available to provide counseling supports as need for all students via Google classroom
• Students are to check their NPS email and counselor Google classroom daily
• Counselors will communicate with parents to discuss absences when a student has been absent for two consecutive days
• Relative to course selection, students may be contacted via email if input is needed

Social Work
Grade 9 – 12: Samantha Yurman (yurmans@norwalkps.org)
• Social service resources will be provided via email to parents and students on a as needed basis
• All mandated IEP counseling as outlined on student’s IEP will be conducted weekly during a scheduled time frame (Ms. Yurman will email students and parents their specific time in advance)
• Social/emotional counseling and support will be available to all students on an as needed basis; students should contact Ms. Yurman to schedule an appointment
• 504 meetings will be scheduled and invites sent out to parents with corresponding documentation.

Academic Interventions
Grades 9 – 12: Wanda McGahern (mcgahernw@norwalkps.org)
• All mandated IEP services will be conducted daily and scheduled by Ms. McGahern
• IEP case management services will be conducted according to the student’s IEP
• Meetings will be scheduled and invites sent out to parents with corresponding paperwork.
• Educational resources will be provided via email to parents and students on an as needed basis

Additional Resources
2-1-1 is a one-stop connection to needed local services, from utility assistance, food, housing, child care, after school programs, elder care, crisis intervention and much more. 2-1-1 is always ready to assist in finding the help needed. Dial 2-1-1 or search online.

Important Reminders
Attendance
• Teachers will track daily course attendance in Google Classroom
• Non-participation in the Google Classroom will be counted as an ‘unexcused absence’

IBM Resources Available to the P-TECH Community
Open P-TECH: Digital learning platform for students and teachers - can earn badges, personalize learning, etc. https://www.ptechn.org/open-p-tech/

Parents are encouraged to review the Google classroom with their student(s). Additionally, school counselors will share important scheduling and grade-specific information in their Google classroom. Again, please review information with your student by using the student’s log-in credentials.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do reach out to your school counselor or me if you have questions or would like to discuss further.

In partnership.

Karen Amaker