

March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

We hope you are well and continuing to keep your families close. I am pleased to say that Newtown Public Schools was approved by the State of Connecticut to proceed with our distance learning plan as we mentioned in a previous communication. On Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we will implement the ***Newtown Alternative Learning Plan (PDF attached below)***. The document identifies the purpose of distance learning and provides a reasonable, structured framework for teaching and learning K-12, which utilizes both digital and print resources. Additional resources will be added for students to access, but we feel strongly that the current plan will support meaningful instruction during the school closure.

I want to add that our staff and school leaders took great care in developing a plan that took into consideration what families might be going through at this difficult time. We understand that the situation of staff, students, and families can change at any time. Please know that this plan will only work with a strong partnership between our staff and you, our students' primary caregivers. Ongoing communication will be key and feel free to reach out when you have a question about the plan and its impact on your own child. If you feel you have difficulty in the home accessing digital materials, either through an issue with devices or lack of Internet service, let us know immediately. You can reach us at Central Office at 203-426-7621.

All of us are navigating uncharted territory while our primary goal is to do what is best for our students. This plan is the first of its kind in Newtown, and we know that there may be "bumps" along the way. While students should feel a sense of ownership and independence for accomplishing the work, your encouragement and guidance will greatly contribute to their success. Our staff will be there to support students in any way they can and all of you as well.

Be well, take care of each other, and thank you for your patience during what is an extremely challenging period for all families and staff.

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Superintendent

[Newtown Public Schools Alternative Learning Plan.pdf](#)