



## FOXBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Amy A. Berdos, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

March 27, 2020

Dear Foxborough Families,

Today marks two full weeks since our District's initial announcement of a two-week school closure in defense of COVID-19. This announcement was quickly nullified two days later with Governor Baker's statewide suspension of all schools until April 7, 2020. With this announcement came guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeff Riley on sharing resources for enrichment purposes, without grades, in order to balance equity and access. Initially, our goal for continuing learning at home was to provide alternative access to student learning and enrichment opportunities to review and preserve already-acquired skills. The hope by doing this was for students to sustain their academic skills and preserve learning gains for when they return to school.

The new longer term closure brings us to a new place. We are transitioning from enrichment opportunities to adopt a *remote learning* plan that will engage students in meaningful and productive learning. Remote learning can encompass a wide variety of experiences and is not the same as online learning. This shift to remote learning requires significant planning and coordination to best meet the needs of our students and families. Released in a letter yesterday, Commissioner Riley noted his guiding principles for supporting student learning and the whole child. In this letter, he differentiated remote learning from online learning. With these recommendations in mind, teachers are working diligently to develop a thoughtful remote learning plan for students.

Elementary, middle, and high school remote learning plans will be appropriately structured by grade level with equity of access and supports for all students at the forefront of planning. There are still many questions that will need to be answered as part of this shift to remote learning and the associated implications for student accountability. Thank you for your patience and support as educators navigate this new landscape. We are fully aware that we cannot duplicate what takes place in a classroom through a remote learning model.

As we move forward during these extraordinarily challenging and unprecedented times, our school community is here to support you. Please reach out to your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or our school administration with any questions. We realize that learning at home requires the assistance and effort of students and the adults who care for them. Our appreciation goes out to all of you. After all, what remains important is that our children know they are supported and cared for during these uncertain times. Focusing on what we can control during this time of social distancing and school closure will be important as we all work together.

Foxborough Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

The summary timeline below outlines what has taken place in the past two weeks, and when you can expect remote learning plans to be shared with students. We wish all of our students and families safety and security during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



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<b>Summary Timeline</b>	
March 13, 2020	Foxborough Public Schools announce two week closure of schools. (March 16-27, 2020)
March 15, 2020	Governor Baker orders the suspension of all school operations commencing the end of the day on Monday, March 16, 2020, and shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, April 6, 2020. (Three week closure)
March 16, 2020	Commissioner Riley issues guidance to Superintendents that resources should be shared for the purpose of enrichment and no grades awarded due to concerns of equity and access.  FPS sends out communications to students and families. Resources for enrichment learning opportunities provided to support students during Week I of closure.
March 17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>  Week I of closure	Priority is on health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff. Teachers and related service providers reach out to students and families to help maintain relationships with and among our students, staff, and families. Resources shared on behalf of Mental Health Teams to support students and families.  FPS Administrators/Teachers/Service providers meet via video or teleconferencing to collaborate on plans for Week II of closure.
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>  Week II of closure	School Committee Meeting - COVID-19 Update  Governor Baker announces extended school closure order through May 3, 2020.  Commissioner Riley provides updated recommendations to school districts with Remote Learning Recommendations during COVID-19 School Closure.  Students provided more specific learning activities for grade level and content specific enrichment. Teachers communicate with students through a variety of electronic modes and phone based on grade level appropriateness.  Kindergarten conferences are held by phone appointments.

	FPS Administrators/Teachers/Service providers meet via video or teleconferencing to collaborate on plans for Week III of closure and begin the development of Remote Learning Plans based on Thursday’s guidance from the Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education.
March 30 <sup>th</sup> – April 3 <sup>rd</sup>  Week III of closure	<p>School Committee Meeting – Monday, March 30, 2020 – COVID-19 Update</p> <p>FPS Administrators/Teachers/Service providers meet via video meetings to continue the development of Remote Learning Plans.</p> <p><b>District remote learning plan introduced.</b> Further defined learning experiences and activities provided for students by grade level and content. Teachers continue to engage and communicate with students via electronic modes based on grade level appropriateness.</p>
April 6 <sup>th</sup> – April 10 <sup>th</sup>  Week IV of closure	<p>School Committee Meeting – Monday, April 6, 2020</p> <p>Full launch of Remote Learning Plans begin for students – Further communication from principals will be sent regarding the specifics of plans and student expectations.</p>