

# Harmony Area School District

Preparing Today's Youth For Tomorrow



Superintendent

5239 Ridge Road  
Westover, Pennsylvania 16692  
PH: (814) 845-7918 ext. 156  
FAX: (814) 845-2305

## CORONAVIRUS SCHOOL CLOSURE UPDATE #2

March 23, 2020

Dear Harmony Area School District Stakeholders,

This update replaces the March 16 coronavirus school closure update since some of our questions have been answered and situations have changed in the past week. Determining essential staff to work during the closure continues to be a local decision. We have revised the status of essential staff to meet the continuing needs of the district while trying to do our part to prevent spread of the virus. School district administrators and secretaries continue to work during the two-week school closure mandated by Governor Wolf, but mostly from home and onsite only as necessary. You can still call or email the school to leave a message and will receive a response as soon as possible. The custodial staff were able to conduct even more extensive cleaning and disinfecting last week and are now on call as needed.

**School Calendar:** We have received official notification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) that the school days missed will not have to be made up. Whether some, all, or none of the days are made up will be a local decision with final approval by the school board. A decision is unlikely before the school closure ends and it is known how many days have been missed. A decision for seniors may be made sooner.

**State Testing:** PDE has informed schools that state testing for this school year has been cancelled.

**School Meals:** A grab and go lunch is being provided beginning today for all students age 18 and younger at two locations. Presbyterian Church in Cherry Tree from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Baptist Church in Westover from 12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m. The lunch will continue to be provided if the school closure is extended as long as there is sufficient interest.

**Educational Activities:** No educational activities are scheduled since we cannot provide equal access and opportunities to all students. Providing online opportunities for students who have internet connectivity to work on if they choose has limited value without teacher support and direction. If the closure is extended past March 27, we will explore feasible and practical options to provide educational resources and support to families.

The administration continues to follow updates on the coronavirus and information provided by the PDE. Additional updates will be given as new information becomes available and more decisions are made.

Dale R. Kirsch  
Acting Superintendent