



## North Stonington Public Schools

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PETER L. NERO  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DEBORAH MARTIN  
BUSINESS MANAGER

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our lives have certainly taken a turn into unprecedented territory. It's has been a least a month of very real concern. Over the last 2 weeks, the news and the protocol for dealing with the COVID-19 had not just changed on a daily basis but sometimes hourly. Last Friday, our faculty and staff thought that we understood what schools needed to do to provide instruction while our schools were closed including applying for the distance learning waiver. On Monday, the state association of superintendents had a statewide conference call to discuss our concerns as how best to educate students and be in compliance of the law. We all agreed that educators needed to provide, as we always do, our "best efforts."

As result, the Commissioner issued a directive to all superintendents. (The complete directive can be found on our website.) In the directive it states, "Now we may all focus our efforts on providing students in Connecticut with continuing educational opportunities to the greatest extent possible."

I am extremely grateful that North Stonington Public School administrators, teachers, and department heads, in anticipation of a possible shutdown, have been quite vigilant preparing supplemental lessons starting last week. In many instances, they have been preparing for distance lessons by preparing digital lessons. Central office staff, administrators and department heads have been meeting to finalize a distance learning plan. We are now on the clock, so to speak, on distance learning, providing supplemental lessons as well as digital lessons. We will all agree that distance learning instruction in public schools is quite different than traditional classroom education. While it is not perfect, what we can do is provide our "best efforts" "to the greatest extent possible." I have no doubt that our staff will do just that with your children.

You will have questions regarding access and equity for special education students; again, we will provide our "best efforts" "to the greatest extent possible." We will provide compensatory services to special education students when school is reopened. We are also finalizing plans for access and equity in regards to technology for those students whose families do not have a personal computer or laptop. That information will be forthcoming from the administrators.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this most difficult tile. Please be safe!

Sincerely,

Peter L. Nero  
Superintendent of Schools