

Dr. Daphne D. Kirkpatrick
Director of Elementary Education
Derrek F. Fink
Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Duane E. Gemberling
Network Administrator



Dr. Brian T. Ulmer
Director of Secondary Education
Catherine A. Girton
Director of Special Education
Jeffrey D. Hoffman
Director of Facilities

Dr. Cathy S. Keegan, Superintendent

March 20, 2020



A message to our students, families, educators, staff and our community –

In the last seven days, we've learned, change is inevitable. The state of our nation and Commonwealth is changing and evolving continually. I compare it to building an airplane while in flight. While our government leaders do their best to ensure the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is slowed to a halt and flattened, your Milton Area School District Administration has been busy preparing in the event our school year is further impacted.

Every school district in our nation is taking measures and preparing to ensure students and staff are safe and have the opportunity to learn safely from their homes. It is with pride that I can say our district successfully completed a digital conversion last school year. Should our Governor order a longer closure of our schools due to the COVID-19 virus, we are now preparing to move to a Virtual Learning Environment, inclusive of professional staff support.

We have received messages from concerned parents about this closure's impact on grading, graduation, the end of the school year date, and other legitimate questions. Simply put, those questions cannot be answered yet because answers have not been provided to the 500 schools in the Commonwealth. It would be irresponsible for us to share timelines based on information we do not have and that is literally changing by the hour.

Here's what we do know. Following CDC and WHO guidelines is absolutely critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and flattening the curve. Stay home. Practice social distancing. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Please take seriously the steps to protect yourself and your community. Wash your hands often, for at least twenty seconds, especially after being in public and coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose. We encourage you to spend time at the CDC website learning what you can do.

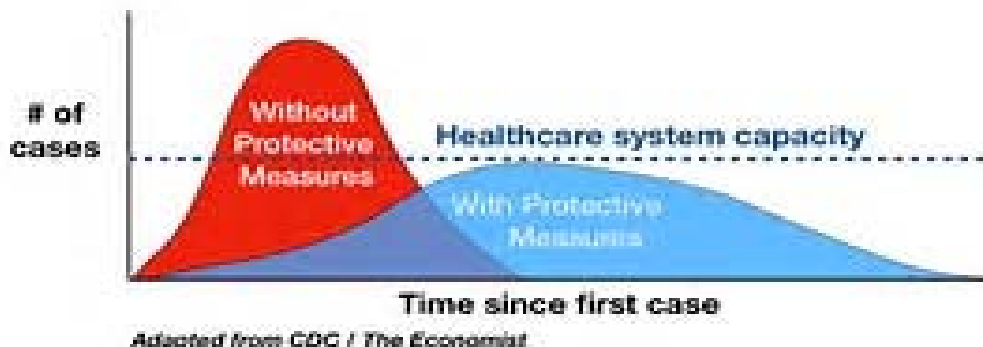
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>.

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As we navigate these uncertain times, please know schools closed due to the coronavirus are allowed to provide free meals to all students. These meals are available to any child age 18 and younger regardless of the family's economic status or district residence.

Lunch and breakfast for the following days will be provided on a first come, first served basis. **Children must be present in order for meals to be provided.** Please stay in your car and meals will be passed through to you based on the number of children in the car or walk up and take a meal home.

Pick up is available Monday through Friday, March 16 - March 27 at:

- **MMS/HS (Pick up in front of High School)** 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm
- **Baughner Elementary (Pick up in front of building)** 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **White Deer Elementary (Pick up in front of building)** 10:30 am - 11:30 am
- **Montandon Elementary (Pick up in front of building)** 10:30 am - 11:30 am
- **Panther Packs will be distributed 3/20 and 3/27 at Baughner Elementary and White Deer Elementary.**

As we learn more about how we can respond during this historic pandemic, we will continue to keep our community updated through Sapphire, our website, and social media channels. Starting Monday, March 23, 2020, on Facebook we will be sharing enrichment activities you can do with your child at home.

Thank you for your support and understanding, during this difficult time. Be well, be safe and take care of yourselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Cathy S. Keegan'.

Superintendent of Milton Area School District