

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 28, 2020

Dear Marple Newtown Families,

You are receiving this communication because your child(ren) receives special services through the Marple Newtown School District. The entire Pupil Services Administration and staff sincerely hope that you and your families are staying well during these tumultuous times. We miss our students and our families, and we look forward to seeing you again soon. Thank you for your support, understanding, and patience during this rapidly evolving situation of COVID-19.

As Dr. Kane previously communicated to our Marple Newtown School Community, Governor Wolf extended our statewide school closure for at least two more weeks. With this new timeline, the Marple Newtown School District's Continuity of Education Plan will be in place on Monday, March 30th. This plan outlines the District's approach for the continuation of our students' education during the COVID-19 school closure.

The Teaching and Learning and Pupil Services teams have worked in close collaboration throughout the development of the continuity of education planning process. As we make the shift from our 'brick and mortar' based schools to a virtual model, our primary focus is intended to promote academic and social growth of our students, as we all learn to navigate virtual education. We want to be sure that our students can continue their education and educational services to the maximum extent possible, and we anticipate that it will take all of us some time to adapt to this change.

As we begin the implementation of the Marple Newtown Continuity of Education Plan, pupil services staff and general education teachers will continue to collaborate to provide for individual student needs to the degree possible and appropriate during this unexpected closure. Special education teachers, gifted support teachers, counselors, psychologists, and related service providers have been planning specific activities for your children to meet their individual needs.

The special education teachers, speech therapists, gifted support teachers, and counselors will send an email to every parent who has a child who receives one or more of these special services IEP/GIEP/504. In this email you will receive a COVID-19 Interim Individualized Emergency Educational Plan. This plan will specify, to the extent possible, the special educational services and specially designed instruction that will be provided. This interim plan will continue for the duration of our school closure. When the District is re-opened and fully

Heather Logue, Ed.D., Supervisor of Special Education

26 Media Line Road • Newtown Square, Pennsylvania 19073 • 610-359-4217 • Fax 610-723-3341 • www.mnsd.org

START STRONG

STAY STRONG

FINISH STRONG

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

operational, your child's IEP/GIEP/504 that was in place prior to our closure will take effect. Please reach out to your child's case manager with any questions.

Once we are able to return to school, we will be developing a plan to review your child's current IEP/GIEP/504 as soon as possible to update present levels and assure appropriate goals and specially designed instruction in the school setting.

Previously scheduled (i.e., prior to our school closure) annual IEP/GIEP/504 meetings have not continued during the past 2-week closure and will be made up in the near future. However, beginning March 30th, these previously scheduled annual IEP/GIEP/504 meetings will be held via conference call or alternative virtual methods. Case managers will reach out to you directly to review this process and to reschedule meetings if necessary. The discussion of the annual IEP/GIEP/504 will be based on the information available at the time of the meeting, and the case manager may update and review IEP/GIEP/504 once school resumes session. This annual IEP/GIEP/504 will contain language detailing the effects of special needs service delivery during the COVID-19 national pandemic.

Please know that the safety, health, and welfare of our students, staff and families are a priority. Everyone is experiencing their own unique challenges during this difficult period. Child care, home situations, and many other factors will impact availability and ability to continue education. We will remain in communication and we encourage you to contact your case managers and pupil service providers if you have concerns or questions.

On behalf of the Pupil Services Department, we sincerely appreciate your support, understanding, and patience as we face this new and unprecedented challenge together. We hope that your families stay healthy and well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Chipeco, RN, CSP, Ed.D.
Substitute Director of Pupil Services

Dr. Heather Logue, Ed.D.
Supervisor of Special Education

Heather Logue, Ed.D., Supervisor of Special Education

26 Media Line Road • Newtown Square, Pennsylvania 19073 • 610-359-4217 • Fax 610-723-3341 • www.mnsd.org

START STRONG

STAY STRONG

FINISH STRONG