

# Cape Henlopen School District



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Dear Cape Staff and Families:

As you are aware, after consulting with school superintendents, and other state officials, Governor John Carney has called for Delaware's public schools to close for a period of two weeks, effective Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020.

Our administrative team has been meeting/planning since the Governor's decision on Friday evening to determine the best path forward, given the uncertainties and challenges we are facing. Please know that because of these uncertainties, information on various topics related to our closure and the impact on our students, staff, and families could change.

We will be providing regular updates to everyone and will do our best to answer questions we are hearing from the community related to our closure. A few topics that we know are important to many of our families and staff are addressed below. We will continue to share information on these topics and others as we move forward and learn more about our challenges and a timeline for our return to school.

## 1. Will the District make food services available for families needing support?

Beginning on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, the District will be offering "Grab and Go" lunch and breakfast meals to children ages 18 and under. They will be available for pick up between 11:00AM and 12:00PM at H.O. Brittingham Elementary School. All families residing within the District can pick up meals; however, you must have a child with you when you pick them up. We are working on delivery options for other locations across the District. The home base for the "Grab and Go" meals can only be stationed at H.O. Brittingham due to state/federal guidelines.

We are also working with local restaurants, the Food Bank of Delaware and other community partners on other food options for students and families. Please continue checking the website, [www.CapeHenlopenSchools.com](http://www.CapeHenlopenSchools.com), for the latest updates.

## 2. Will work be sent home while school is closed?

At this point in time, we will not be sending additional work home. However, we have launched a webpage, [www.CapeHenlopenSchools.com/virtual](http://www.CapeHenlopenSchools.com/virtual), to share learning resources that families can use in the absence of instruction. We encourage our students to spend time reading and working on basic skills that will enhance previously learned material. Please know that we will *not* be teaching any new curricular material during this time of closure. These resources are self-paced and can be accessed at any time. Participation is considered voluntary. This will not count as graded work and no tests are planned on the material. The District will continue to

build upon this framework with additional learning activities that could be available if schools are closed beyond two weeks. Finally, only assignments given on or prior to the students last day, March 12, 2020, will be eligible to grade. Teachers may connect with students through Schoology if there are outstanding items needed from students.

**3. Will we have to make up the days?**

It *should* be possible to recover several days originally set aside for weather related issues. We will seek guidance from the Delaware Department of Education regarding “waiver” options and would only add days to the end of the school year as a last resort.

**4. Is there a chance that we could be out longer than two weeks?**

There’s always that possibility, but my hope is that this mandatory shutdown will help slow the spread of the disease and allow us to get back to business as soon as possible.

**5. How can I get into the school to retrieve my child’s medication?**

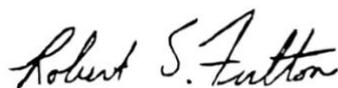
School nurses will be distributing any medications families may need to pick up at the schools on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

**6. General Questions:**

Personnel will be available by phone at each school on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00AM to 4:00PM for questions and/or assistance.

I appreciate everyone for their understanding and support during such challenging circumstances for the Cape community. Please keep in mind that parents, students, and staff are doing their best to balance the demands of family, work and other issues associated with COVID-19. I am very PROUD to say that many people in our community, including parents, staff, business and political leaders have already reached out to me and others in the District asking how they can help. So great to see, but not surprised given where we live and the outpouring of love and generosity toward one another in times of need. This love and generosity does not go unnoticed and makes all of the difference in the world, especially to those who are impacted more negatively by the challenges we are facing.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Fulton, M.S. Ed.  
Superintendent