



**MALDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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Superintendent of Schools

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March 16, 2020

Dear Malden Public Schools Staff, Students, and Families,

We hope that this message finds you safe and healthy on the first official emergency “no school day.” As many of you heard in Governor Baker’s address last evening, we can expect that schools throughout Massachusetts will be closed at least until April 7th. We are in unprecedented times and are working as quickly as possible to process information by the minute, ask pertinent questions, and then get information out to families and staff. We understand that you may have many questions, worries, and concerns as we balance the demands of this public health emergency with the desire to continue with the normalcy that comes with school and learning. This brief message will hopefully provide a context for what has been happening in the district over the past three days and provide a snapshot of what to expect in the days ahead.

As you know, last Thursday we postponed professional development for our educators. This decision was made based on the rapidly evolving situation related to COVID-19. Our day on Friday was spent working closely with the Mayor’s Office as well as numerous conference calls followed by central office staff absorbing the enormous amount of information coming from local and state health agencies, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Malden’s Emergency Management Team.

**Meals for Students**

Following our calls on Friday, our first priority was to ensure that our students had access to breakfast and lunch. Thanks to Omar Hernandez of Whitson’s (our food service provider) and the dedicated food service staff who were on site at 5 a.m. to assemble meals for any student who would like one. ***These meals are free for ALL Malden students, regardless of income or where you attend school.*** Meals are available at the following times and locations:

<b>Meal</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Locations</b>
Breakfast	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Salemwood, both upper and lower cafeterias MHS, both cafeterias

Lunch	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Salemwood, both upper and lower cafeterias MHS, both cafeterias
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**Learning and Engagement**

We will be working with the Malden Education Association and our Curriculum Directors this week to begin to provide resources for families . This will be a coordinated effort from the central office and you **should not expect** to see communication from individual teachers. You **should expect** to see a list of resources posted by Thursday of this week. In addition, DESE is working with community partners to develop learning opportunities that would be accessible through local television stations. We will have more information about these efforts in the coming days.

Next week, as our situation continues to evolve, you will receive additional information about what you can expect in terms of engagement moving forward.

**Technology**

We appreciate that many of our families may not have access to technology at home. We are working to identify ways to get technology access to families and will be communicating more about this possibility in the near futures.

**Continued Communication**

We will be working with MATV to broadcast important announcements and updates related to Malden Public Schools. In addition, you will see more updates like this at a minimum of once per week, plus additional communication through social media, automated calls to the learning community, and our website. Please follow us on Twitter @MaldenPublic and our website [www.maldenps.org](http://www.maldenps.org).

We look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

Wishing you health,

*John Oteri*

John Oteri  
Superintendent