



Griswold Public Schools

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March 13th, 2020

Dear Griswold Public Schools:

We are writing to inform you that Griswold Public Schools will be closed until further notice, effective 7pm this evening. At a minimum, Griswold Public Schools will be closed for two weeks. This includes all school-sponsored and non-school sponsored afternoon, evening, and weekend activities. Please know that as guidance is updated, this closure period may need to be extended.

On the advice of our local health departments, the school superintendents in Southeastern Connecticut came together today to make a decision to put the health of our community (both our school community and the community at large) at the center of our decision to close schools. The superintendents have been advised by local health authorities that the implementation of social distancing measures is a proven science-based intervention that has been shown to mitigate a virus outbreak. In the past, communities in which schools closed were able to positively impact and reduce the spread of a virus.

Please know that Griswold Public Schools is working closely with the Town of Griswold on all of our efforts, and we present this letter in solidarity. We felt compelled to make this decision on school closure to prevent the spread of illness among our students, staff, and our communities. We also clearly heard that we cannot confirm that this illness will run its course in two weeks; in fact, it is not likely that it will. We made the determination to make this closure "until further notice" based on that information. This decision was made in consultation with the support of the health departments, state officials, and emergency management professionals.

We would like you to take note of the following:

- We are planning to have all offices open to resume normal processes, to field phone calls and to accommodate visits during the "open to the public" hours. The office hours will be our normal office hours; *the "open to the public hours" will be different.*

- The “open to the public hours” next week are from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm on Monday, March 16th; on Tuesday, March 17th; and on Wednesday, March 18th. The purpose of limiting these days and times is to allow parents, guardians, students, faculty and staff access to retrieve things.
- Any school meeting, scheduled during the closure period, will be rescheduled for when we open.
- Griswold Public Schools will post to its web site an “At Home” learning page that students and parents can access for supplemental learning activities during the school closure period. Students and parents who would like a printed copy may contact their school main office to arrange for a pick-up.
- There will be an update next week from our Food Service Department.
- During the school closure period, there will be no tutoring services and no out-of-district transportation, including to and from out-of-district learning institutions.

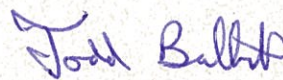
Please know that we have no other information to share at this point, but we will continue to communicate information as we receive updated guidance from our public health officials, the CDC, and state officials. Please continue to monitor your email and our web site to ensure receipt of the most current information. We will be sending another communication to the community next Friday, as we monitor, assess, and process any and all developments. We expect that more information will be forthcoming in the upcoming days. We thank you for your understanding and wish you all well.

Sincerely yours,



Sean P. McKenna,
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely yours,



Todd Babbitt,
First Selectman, Town of Griswold