

Gateway School District



Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Dear Gateway Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Faculty,

First and foremost, I wish to thank everyone associated with the Gateway School District for your patience and understanding. We continue to receive updates on the COVID-19 virus that has placed Pennsylvanians and members of the school community in an unprecedented situation. As we receive additional information, we will disseminate its impact and communicate with you as quickly as possible. At present, **Gateway School District will remain closed through March 27, 2020.**

Please understand that the situation remains fluid, and change is to be expected. However, we will get through this together as we are committed to doing what is best for our students, parents/guardians, staff, and teachers: Their health, safety, and welfare is our number one priority. At this time, I am awaiting direction from Governor Wolf's office and the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding a continuance of instructional services for students.

Given the fluid nature of the news that we are receiving from the Commonwealth and the potential for a longer shutdown, please know that Gateway is prepared, and when appropriate, will announce plans for cyber instruction based on the feasibility and availability of resources.

In the meantime, I would like to share the following information:

- **Flexible Instructional Days (FIDs) will not be utilized during this two week period: March 16, 2020 through March 27, 2020.** To explain, we are seeking more guidance from PA Dept. of Education. In order to use those days, Districts must ensure full access to learning for **all** students, with particular attention to free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities and English as a second language (ESL) services for English learners when instruction is equivalent for all learners. *Guidance will be forthcoming from the Department of Education and the Governor's Office.*
- **The 3rd nine week grading period and report cards will be postponed.** Originally scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2020 and Monday, March 23, 2020, these two dates will be rescheduled and communicated to students, parents/guardians, and teachers.

- **Food service will continue through March 27th.** Daily meals/lunches will continue to be available during this period. Additional satellite locations will be forthcoming and communicated.
- **District buildings will be closed to students and parents/guardians through March 27th.** If student medication stored in the nurse's office is required by families, please contact your building level principal, and “curbside” pick up will be arranged.
- **Educational “enrichment” resources will be made available on the Gateway website for students and parents/guardians.** Though not required for instructional/graded purposes, these resources can be used as enrichment for children. Families without internet access can contact providers who are offering free services during this Government shutdown.
- **Extracurricular activities, including athletics will be postponed until further notice.**
- **We strongly encourage families to continue to follow the guidance and recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Allegheny County Health Department regarding hygiene and social distancing.**

I recognize the incredible hardship this period of inactivity is causing our school community but realize that the course of action taken by our Governor and the Department of Education will profoundly curb the exposure and potential risk of developing the COVID-19, Coronavirus.

As we move through the next week and a half, please remember that our children need reassurance from adults. Use this opportunity to spend time with your families until we are back together again and stay safe!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Short', written in a cursive style.

William Short Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools