



Connect 5 Message March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through the details and nuances of this extended closure. We have outlined information regarding instructional services and continuity of learning for our students. It is our goal to ensure all students remain engaged in relevant learning throughout the closure.

Continuity of Learning:

We aim to keep our students engaged and learning over the next two weeks. During this school closure, we ask that parents and guardians encourage students to utilize the materials and resources their teachers have provided.

Students in grades Pk-8 will receive instructional packets, aimed at engaging students in learning for a minimum of 60 minutes, per SOL core content area, each day. Students in grades 9-12 will receive online instruction via Google Classroom. Work expectations should not exceed 2 hours per day for elementary students or 3 hours per day for middle and high school students.

Instructional packets will be available through self-service pick up in bins, labeled by grade level and subject, at the front door of each elementary and middle school. K-8 learning packets will be made available for parent pick-up beginning Tuesday, March 17 from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. at each school. They will also be available from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. High school teachers will provide paper copies of the instruction materials for any student who does not have consistent, reliable access to the internet.

Teachers at all levels will be available by email to answer questions parents/students may have about the assigned work throughout the closure. Parents may also convey questions by calling the school's main telephone number and leaving a message. Building principals will ensure voice messages are forwarded to the appropriate staff. Please contact your building principal if you have any concern or issue that needs attention.

NEW: High school students who were assigned scheduling appointments for selecting classes for next year will receive information from their school, either through their student email or a phone call, on how those conferences will be handled during the two week closure. Students and parents can always email their counselor if they need additional information.

Special Education, Section 504 and Homebound Services:

Students served in early childhood special education classrooms and those instructed in adapted curriculum will receive learning materials aligned to their needs. Materials may be mailed home. If you have any questions, please contact your student's case manager.



Special education students currently receiving home-based services through individualized education programs will receive materials to engage in learning at home during school closure. Home-based services will resume when schools reopen.

General education students receiving homebound or home-based services will not be able to receive in-home support from IWCS staff during this closure. These students will receive learning activities through their assigned school.

All previously scheduled special education and 504 Plan meetings will be held virtually or by phone conference as employees and families are not to come into school buildings. Case managers will reach out to parents to arrange mutually agreeable meeting times and methods of participation.

Student Expectations:

- Students are encouraged to engage in the learning opportunities provided by their teachers each week. These opportunities can be completed at any time during the school closure.
- Students should take advantage of opportunities to reach out to their teachers via Google classroom, email or by calling the school's main number and leaving a voicemail message. Please do not hesitate to contact your teacher if you need any support with the material or assignments.
- High School students will need their IWCS laptop (or another device) with internet access, login information, and Google Classroom information.
- School counselors are available for students and will respond to any messages within 24 hours within the work week. Please do not hesitate to contact your school counselor by email or by calling the school's main number and leaving a voicemail message.

Feeding Students

While schools are closed for the next two weeks, any child who is in need of meals can receive breakfast and lunch through the division's feeding program. Beginning Monday, March 16, through Friday, March 27, meals will be offered to all students without charge, at the locations listed below. To maintain the safety guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), meals will be provided using a drive by/pickup model. They will be bagged and include both a breakfast and a lunch. Should pick-up dates or sites be changed, you will be notified via Connect 5, on our website and through our official social media channels.

Meals will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at Smithfield High School, Georgie Tyler Middle School, and Carrsville Elementary School. In addition, our school buses will be delivering meals to the following areas throughout the county daily, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



In the northern areas of the county:

- Jersey Park
- Jersey Park Apartments
- Bradford Mews Apartments
- Smithfield Apartments
- Church Manor Apartments
- Cedar Street Apartments
- Rushmere Fire Department
- Eagle Harbor
- The Nest Apartments

In the southern areas of the county:

- Camptown Park
- Twin Ponds Mobile Community
- Clydesdale Mobile Community
- Georgie Tyler Apartments
- ~~Zuni City~~ (changed to Zuni Presbyterian Church)
- ~~Windsor Ruritan Club~~ (changed to Windsor Manor)

We will keep you informed during and after this closure and continue to communicate any change in status through our traditional channels. Again, thank you for your patience and flexibility, and as always, thank you for your support of Isle of Wight County Schools.