March 20, 2020

Cornell Families:

We hope you are doing well during this confusing, frustrating and scary week. The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently announced some very useful guidance to school districts that will allow us to move forward in our remote learning/alternative education methods. This will start on **Monday, March 23** for all students.

Our teachers are ready to start communicating with families and students on Monday via email, online learning platforms, and parent communication apps such as Class Dojo and Remind. Please check these continuously throughout this ordeal. We are hopeful that modified school work and transitioning to a remote learning method will both keep your child(ren) engaged with meaningful activities and bring some normalcy back into their daily schedule.

In addition, PDE also announced that all PSSA and Keystone assessments, that are normally administered in the spring, are all cancelled.

We thank you for your understanding and partnership during this time. We believe we have a nice plan in place to offer continuity of learning, but we realize that there will be some bumps in the road as we progress. Please work with your child’s teacher and school administration to work out any kinks, and we’ll address and overcome this disruption together to the best of our ability. The longer these educational methods are deployed, the better we will all get at it.

Parkway West CTC students, please pay close attention as you’ll be receiving communication from your Parkway CTC instructors and administration in the near future. Parkway West CTC has alternative instruction planned out and will roll it out to students in the very near future.

Lastly, due to the continued progression of this virus at the national, state, and local levels, I believe it would be wise to accept that school closures will go past the originally announced two weeks. **So as of today, Cornell School District will be closed through April 10**. There is a good possibility we will be closed past April 10th, but we’ll address and communicate to families if that becomes the case.

For those elementary families who need to pick up school work you can do so from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm in the elementary office. Lunch will also be served on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at that time in the cafeteria and at the Gazebo location in Coraopolis and Cottage Park on Neville Island.
The Cornell offices will still be operating at this time, but on flex hours. You can call the offices listed below if you have any questions.

Cornell Elementary – 412-264-5010 ext. 141 or 143
Cornell High School - 412-264-5010 ext.121
Cornell High School Guidance – 412-264-5010 ext. 110
Cornell Special Education Office – 412-264-5010 ext. 111
Cornell School District – 412-264-5010 ext. 100

Thank you again for your understanding during this difficult time. We will address it and move forward together!

Sincerely,

Dr. Aaron Thomas
Superintendent