



School District of the City of Jeannette

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Dear Parents & Guardians:

As a result of the mandatory school closure due to the threat of COVID-19 and CDC recommendations for the need for social distancing, the Jeannette School District will be providing distance learning to all students beginning March 30, 2020. During this unprecedented national emergency, districts remain responsible to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities, and the Department of Education clarifies that providing FAPE must be “consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those individuals providing special education and related services to students.”

The Jeannette School District is committed to working with the parents/guardians of our students to provide an individualized continuity of learning plan through the duration of a school closure. The United States Department of Education has emphasized that federal disability laws allow for flexibility where possible in determining how to meet the individual needs of students with disabilities during this time. Below is an overview of the Jeannette School District’s plan to provide services to our special education students.

All teachers, therapists, and paraprofessionals have participated in Act 80 days in order to create Google Classrooms and educational instructional packets. Additional virtual meeting options will be used to help present instruction to students. Teachers and paraeducators will be hold virtual meetings three times a day (9:00, 12:00, and 2:30) to help with instruction, answer questions, completing assignments, and providing accommodations. Teachers will also be available every day from 8:00-3:30 via email.

Therapists will be reaching out to those students who receive therapy. Therapy sessions will be scheduled sessions that occur weekly. Therapies could be provided in groups or 1:1 sessions. Therapists will send our virtual links that could provide live therapy or a recorded link. Once the therapy sessions are scheduled, times cannot be changed.

Skills related to the student's IEP goals and objectives will be the focus for students in speech support, learning support, life skills, emotional support, and autism support classes. Online instruction will not be held like a typical classroom day with the number of hours of instruction. Special Education teachers will be contacting parents by Friday, March 27th to discuss concerns, answer questions, discuss the format for their special education classroom, and how they can support you and your child at home through continuous learning.

If your students are in an outside placement, the schools should be reaching out to you soon to start distance learning.

Lastly, it is important for teachers to have updated emails and phone numbers to communicate with you on a regular basis. If you have any questions or concerns you may email your child’s teacher at any time.

Thank you,

Denise Kubistek, Director of Special Education