Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope you and your family are doing well and staying healthy during this unprecedented time. As you are aware, the COVID-19 restrictions implemented by Governor Wolf have school districts in Pennsylvania. During the last week we have been waiting for additional guidance and clarification from our state and federal leaders, specifically as to how the closure of schools will impact students with Individualized Education Programs, or IEPs.

At this time, schools are encouraged to continue with IEP teams using telephones or video conferencing. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) encourages districts to continue offering educational services in various ways, including cyber learning. Quaker Valley School District will begin remote instruction on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Students who have disabilities will have access to instructional materials, both online and paper materials, if needed. We realize the services provided may not be as extensive or rigorous as in-school programming, so we are working with families to develop a plan to keep students on track during the school closures.

We will also be contacting parents and guardians by phone or email to discuss students’ IEPs and revisions that may be necessary to temporarily implement a child’s goals and programming remotely. In addition, if your child’s annual IEP meeting is coming up, you will be contacted by your child’s special education teacher to schedule the IEP meeting. A draft IEP will be distributed electronically in advance of the meeting. Once school reopens, IEP teams may also reconvene to determine if there are any regression and recoupment concerns.

Direct and relates services, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, teacher of the hearing impaired, teacher of the visually impaired, social skills, counseling, paraprofessional support, and academic intervention program will be provided via a cyber platform that complies with confidentiality regulations.

When I started in July, one of the first things I quickly learned about Quaker Valley is that we are a close community, where everyone helps and cares for their neighbors; I know the students, staff, parents, and community members will work together to ensure daily learning continues to take place.

Thank you for your patience during this challenging time. As additional information becomes available, we will keep you updated. If you have any concerns about your ability to access online programming or virtual services, please contact your child’s case manager to discuss resources and/or alternatives for the implementation of your child’s program. If you have any questions after speaking with the special education staff, please feel free to contact me at 412-479-3632 or via email at lewism@qvsd.org.

Please take care,

Mike Lewis
Quaker Valley School District
Director of Student Services