



Homer-Center High School
Homer-Center School District
"Where Everybody is Somebody"

Homer-Center High School
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Homer City, PA 15748
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March 25, 2020

Dear High School Student, Staff and Parents:

Yesterday, our educational leadership team participated in several virtual meetings to gain guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) regarding continuity of education planning. We were presented three options to provide continuity of education for our students. Our team decided the option best to pursue for the students of Homer-Center is the concept of Enrichment and Review. The distinct characteristics of Enrichment and Review are

- Teachers will be required to provide a daily Enrichment or Review activity for students.
- The teacher will use student email to give clear and concise directions to students to access the online platform the teacher has chosen to post enrichment activities.
- Teachers will monitor and provide feedback for students who chose to complete and submit the activity.
- Although student participation in the enrichment activities by students is voluntary, we **STRONGLY** encourage students to engage in the enrichment/review activity. There will be **NO** penalty for student non-participation.
- Teachers are **NOT** permitted to grade the enrichment/review activity or make participation a condition to positively or negatively impact a student grade.

We identified specific challenges that we anticipate our students, staff and parents may encounter. The first is technology issues. We surveyed all students prior to departing school March 13 to gain data on students who had connectivity at home and the device used to connect. We deemed students who only access the internet via a cell phone as not having a device appropriate for learning. We will be making contact with students who indicated a cell phone as their only available device to connect. When we make this contact, we will communicate our plan and procedure to lend and distribute chromebooks to these students.

Another technology related issue we discovered are families who have no connectivity in their home. For these students we have established wireless access from specific locations in our school parking lots. For families with no connectivity we have set up wireless access points our parking lots at the school. We will open our parking lots from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily for those desiring an access point. We recognize connecting and completing an academic enrichment activity from a parked car in our parking lot is not the ideal situation, but it is the best option we have to provide connectivity and access for our students and families lacking connectivity in their homes. We will also reach out to the families of students who responded no connectivity to the survey and communicate more specific information on our connectivity access plan.

For students who receive support services our Special Education Director Mrs. Genchur and her team will be contacting you directly to discuss how support services will be delivered during the duration of the mandated school closure.

Teachers will be participating in virtual training Thursday and Friday March 26 and 27. Enrichment activities should begin to appear for student access Monday, March 30. This undertaking is a learning process and we realize every plan has to be adapted to meet unanticipated needs. Our students, staff and parents have been very patient and supportive throughout the mandated closure. We appreciate your continued patience and support and as we work through issues that we might experience during the implementation of our continuity of education plan. If you have any questions or experience any issues during the implementation of our continuity of education plan email me at jrainey@homercenter.org and I will respond to your concern as quickly as possible.

I am proud of all our students, staff and parents. Your compassion, resiliency and perseverance has been absolute. We will come through this together and stronger than ever. Please continue to follow the safety recommendations of the CDC for the safety of yourself, family and friends. I look forward to the time we can all be together again.

Sincerely,


Jody Rainey
Principal