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April 4, 2020

Dear Middletown School District Families,

Our thoughts continue to be with you and our students during the unprecedented situation caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We hope everyone is doing as well as can be expected. Please know our district remains committed to being a critical support to our families during this difficult time. Do not hesitate to reach out if you are struggling with any ongoing issues.

The past weeks have presented a series of unanticipated challenges for us, as well as some wonderful highlights. This week, we held our first fully virtual Board of Education meeting. Holding this meeting enabled our district to continue to operate the business side of the organization and to fulfill the Board's commitment to represent our entire school community in service of students.

Our district made chromebook devices available to all students in grades K-6. Remember, grades K-6 students did not previously have devices with "take-home" permissions like grade 7-12 students. Collectively, over 3,400 devices were provided to students in four days. There is a *last chance device* distribution and K-6 academic bundle pickup scheduled to take place on Monday, April 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Presidential Park Elementary School. This device distribution, coupled with our remote learning plan, will make continuity of education seamless.

There are many, many acts of service being done behind the scenes daily by our instructional staff. Countless hours have been spent creating academic resource bundles, cultivating tools, sharing strategies, creating book baggies and math manipulative bags, making phone calls to families, sending and responding to emails, being present for and leading virtual meetings, and setting up online learning spaces.

Our wonderful Food and Nutrition Services department continues to provide creative and nutritiously delicious meals to anyone aged 18 and under. To date, 81,000 meals have been made and delivered!

None of these highlights would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our teams. Every corner of the organization continues to come together to serve our school community.

Our approach, during this period of closure, balances our community dynamics, honors the Governor's executive order, and respects the current unique place in which we find ourselves. Thank you for your support as we work together to do our very best to support our students and our community during this difficult time. Our <u>District website</u> is a wealth of resources, continue to check it regularly for announcements and updates. At this time, we will remain closed until April 14. School will reopen on April 15 unless we receive further direction from the Governor.

Your partner in education,

Richard Del Moro

Richard Del Moro, Superintendent of Schools