



March 13, 2020

Dear CSDNB Families,

I want to thank you for your patience as we have navigated this unpredictable time over the past week. In an effort to keep all of our students and families free of COVID-19, the New Britain Public Schools will be closing all schools beginning Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 27.

In partnership with the Department of Public Health, the closing of schools is a public health tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We will be in communication with you prior to the anticipated back to school start date of Monday, March 30 to let you know if we will open or continue with the school closures.

It is the expectation that our students are engaged in learning daily. The district has prepared student materials to be worked on at home. Materials are available online at www.csdnb.org. Click on the link to the Coronavirus Update Page, then scroll down to Academic Updates and click the link. For those families without internet or a device, teachers will be giving out materials to your child today. If your child comes home without the materials, you must pick them up at one of the five Meal Distribution Centers listed below. Join us in stressing to students that this is NOT vacation time. All families should focus on the purpose for the school closure. We want to ensure our students are safe, engaged in learning activities and that they understand their role as a contributing member of the New Britain community in reducing exposure for our most at-risk population in New Britain.

What does this mean for students and families?

- Breakfast and Lunch will be provided for all New Britain Students beginning Monday, March 16, 2020.
 - **We will have five Meal Distribution Centers:**
 - New Britain High School, 110 Mill Street, New Britain CT 06051
 - Pulaski Middle School, 757 Farmington Avenue, New Britain CT 06053
 - Smalley Elementary School, 175 West Street, New Britain CT 06053
 - Smith Elementary School, 142 Rutherford Street, New Britain CT 06051
 - Food Truck at A.W. Stanley Park, Stanley Street, New Britain

Meal Distribution Center hours are Monday - Friday: 8:30a.m.-10:00 a.m. AND 11:30-1:00. The expectation is that you bring your child with you for their meals. You may obtain both meals during each of the open hours so that you do not have to come twice per day. Once you arrive there will be instructions to maintain a reasonable flow of people.

- Because the school closure occurs before our scheduled April Vacation (Monday, April 13-Friday, April 17) we will be making up the days lost during April Vacation if school is back in session. Again I will keep in contact with all of you in the event this changes.
- The remaining school closure days will be added to the end of the current school year (which currently ends on June 19), up to no later than June 30, 2020. Please plan on the last day of school potentially as June 30, 2020.
- We will communicate by phone messages, Facebook, and the district home page www.csdnb.org
- It is very important that you update your phone and emergency contact information through PowerSchool in order to receive important phone messages. We will also be sending communications through your child's school email account which can be accessed with their district Google account. This is the same information that your child uses while logging in/accessing a district Chromebook.
- ***The tentative plan for Report Card Conferences scheduled for March 31, April 1, April 2 - Parents will have the option of discussing their child's progress via phone if preferred.***

Below is the Centers for Disease Control website that helps families talk to their children about COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

We want all of our students and of course all of our family members to stay healthy during this time. Feel free to email me at sarra@csdnb.org, our Assistant Superintendent Michael Foran foran@csdnb.org or your building principals.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Sarra".

Nancy Sarra
Superintendent of Schools