



LEARNING PREP SCHOOL

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March 17, 2020

Dear Learning Prep Families and Other Interested Parties,

During the five days since our last communication to you dated March 12th, much has happened given the expansion of COVID-19. There have been various responses at different levels of government to this pandemic including the issuance by Governor Baker declaring a State of Emergency for Massachusetts. Then, on Friday, March 13th, the Governor ordered a three-week suspension of school operations for educational purposes at all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth (not including residential and day schools for special needs students), beginning Tuesday, March 17. Under the governor's order, "schools shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, April 6".

The CDC and DPH have issued guidelines with respect to the spread of the virus, specifically limiting the number of people that can assemble or be engaged in social interactions, otherwise known as social distancing. Obviously, LPS, as is the case with most educational institutions, were it to remain open, would not be able to comply with this directive. As a result, we are extending the closure of school through Monday, April 6th, reopening Tuesday, April 7th. We will be monitoring information from the CDC, DPH and DESE to determine what actions we may need to consider subsequent to that date. We will communicate periodically with our extended LPS community with salient and timely information.

We are including information on several topics that we believe may be of interest to you.

MCAS

- 10th grade ELA testing has been postponed for the time being, while DESE works on a contingency plan. We, of course, will share any updated information with you as it becomes available.

Remote Learning

- Information was sent to you, from your student's Principal, as part of our March 12th communication, outlining the plan for engaging (remotely) your child in teaching and learning. We intend to continue with this plan while we are closed. Should you have any questions, please contact your child's building Principal.
- As we did in our communication on March 12th, we will continue to include links to articles that may be useful to you. Here is a link to an article entitled "9 tips for parents navigating online learning with their children due to Coronavirus."
<https://www.theladders.com/career-advice/tips-for-parents-online-learning-with-children>

Last Day of School

- Here is the latest information from DESE:

- 180 School Day Requirement:
 1. All days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies between the first day of the school year and March 15 must be made up by rescheduling full school days to ensure a 180-day school year.
 2. All days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies between March 16 and June 1 must be made up to ensure a 180-day school year or until the school has reached its previously-scheduled 185th day, whichever comes first. If all five snow days have been used prior to this point, the school is not required to schedule additional school days.
 3. Schools will not be expected to make up any days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies that occur after June 1.

This change means that if you have already canceled school for five days before March 15, you do not need to schedule additional make-up days for any days that school is closed after March 15. The longest that any school will be required to go is its scheduled 185th day. No schools will be required to be in session after June 30.

- As of now, our last school day is June 24th, it will be a ½ day.

Regards,

Ted and Gretchen