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April 1, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

First, thank you for your patience, flexibility and support over the last few weeks as we've all grappled with the uncertainties that come with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on our region. I take great pride in saying that you are part of an EPS family that has banded together amid unprecedented challenges to make sure our children are fed, are supported, and continue to receive their education. I am deeply grateful.

Gov. Tom Wolf's March 30 announcement that all Pennsylvania schools will now remain closed indefinitely does not change our mission to deliver a quality education each and every student. **Beginning Monday, April 20, Erie's Public Schools will begin the delivery of mandatory planned online instruction.** All students, K-12, will be required to participate in and complete assignments delivered by their teachers through Google Classroom, a free online platform that is accessible through any device that can connect to the Internet, including the some gaming systems, or another district-approved platform teachers may already have in place. More information about this transition, including complete instructions on how to access and utilize Google Classroom, will follow shortly.

We know that many families do not have access to the Internet and/or a device with which to access the Internet. The district is working with community partners and individual families on a case by case basis to provide Wi-Fi access to as many students as possible, as quickly as possible.

Families requesting Chromebooks or who need assistance with Internet access should contact the district's IT department at 874-6801 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Monday, April 6 or Tuesday, April 7. (Families who previously made an appointment to pick up a Chromebook on March 23, 24 or 25 will be contacted by a member of the IT department and DO NOT need to call.) Chromebooks will be distributed by appointment beginning Monday, April 14.

Lastly, I want to update you on changes to grading. All work that was scheduled to be due after March 13, 2020, is excused. Missed work from March 2-13 will not count against students, but will benefit students who complete(d) it. Students will have a two week window beginning April 6, 2020 to turn in missing work from

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March 2-13 to benefit their grade (this ensures students an opportunity to receive a district device and have a means to submit).

Teachers will also utilize their professional judgement on how to weight or value work that was in-process and any missed opportunities to complete test makeup. At the elementary level, the teachers will utilize pass/fail for third quarter. At the middle school and high school level, teachers will utilize the standard grading scale.

In lieu of letter grades for the upcoming fourth quarter, students across all grades will receive a "Complete-Satisfactory" or "Incomplete" mark. Students who receive an "Incomplete" may be required to attend summer school (if the order to close schools is lifted) and/or may be considered for retention based on the overview of all progress during the 19-20 school year.

The closure of our schools has been difficult on everyone, particularly our high school seniors who have worked so hard to reach this point and have been looking forward to graduation and other senior year events. We don't yet know how those events could be affected by the indefinite closure of our buildings, but will communicate any further information related to the senior year calendar as soon as possible.

Again, on behalf of the entire district, thank you for everything you continue to do in support of our students and Erie's Public Schools. We'll continue to post updates on our district website, eriesd.org, our Facebook page, and through the One Call telephone system. You can reach us by email at EPShealth@eriesd.org, or by phone at 874-6090 beginning Monday, April 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Polito". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Brian Polito, CPA
Superintendent, Erie's Public Schools