March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Gov. Tom Wolf today announced the closure of all K-12 schools statewide as part of ongoing measures to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. As of now, all EPS schools will remain closed through at least Friday, March 27. No Pre-K programs will be in session, and all EPS activities, sporting events and team practices are canceled.

Starting on Tuesday, March 17, teachers will begin preparing to deliver instruction remotely and will begin online instruction on Monday, March 23. As part of that effort, we will start distributing technology to those students who need it. More details about technology availability and distribution will be coming soon.

Elementary families should have received information on Friday, March 13 to help their child log into websites and online platforms (Amplify, iReady and Smart Futures). If you did not receive this information, please contact your child’s school directly as soon as possible. Students without access to the internet will receive paper packets to complete at home.

All teachers will be communicating with their students via individual teacher webpages. Middle school and high school teachers in particular will post assignments and other resources and information in this way, so please familiarize yourself with our district website (www.eriesd.org) in general and teacher webpages in particular. Teacher webpages can be found on the websites of each school.

We understand that many of our families and students also rely on our schools for meals and other supports. All elementary, middle and high school students can report to their “home” elementary school (regardless of the school they attend) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily beginning Tuesday, March 17. Families can pick up lunch as well as breakfast for the following day. All students should bring or know their Erie School District student ID number if possible.

We also know that many families benefit from the varied supports offered through our community schools. We are in frequent communication with the United Way of Erie County and the partners who provide services at those schools, and will
provide updated information regarding community school supports as soon as possible.

More information will be coming in the days ahead, but please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. We’ve created a webpage, www.eriesd.org/combatcovid, to keep you posted on all new developments. We’ll also share updates on our district Facebook page and through our One Call telephone system.

Thank you for your patience in what I know is a difficult and unsettling time for all of us. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact my office at 874-6001. You can also send emails with any questions or feedback to epshealth@eriesd.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Polito, CPA
Superintendent, Erie’s Public Schools