

Coronavirus Update

March 29, 2020

I continue to be amazed by how well and how quickly our teachers, students and parents have responded to a call to action due to the closure of schools. According to the old proverb, “Necessity is the Mother of Invention”. Out of necessity, we have all invented ways to live and work in a community we did not envision as we switched our calendars 4 short weeks ago from February to March. In many ways, this scene from Apollo 13 captures our collective efforts to make a square peg fit into a round hole: Optional [Video Link](#). And we are all employing the theme in that movie - “Failure is Not an Option”. Thank you for being part of a great little community that is doing amazing work during trying times.

School Closure Extended - Last Thursday afternoon, Governor Sununu announced that schools are to remain closed through May 3rd. That means we need to continue with Remote Learning and Remote Support to achieve continued Real Learning in Litchfield. I also urge parents to realize that there is a strong likelihood we will remain out of school for the rest of this school year in order to prevent a secondary wave of infections. I don’t like it one bit, but the more I read about the response to past pandemics the more it seems likely we will extend school closures through the summer.

Survey for Parents - Here is a [quick survey](#) for parents about how we are doing with remote instruction and learning. There is also a question related to April Vacation. Staff members who also have children in Litchfield schools must put on their “Litchfield Parent Hat” before responding to this survey: there is a separate survey intended to capture thoughts from teachers and staff. There is also an optional student survey for grades 5-12.

As we work to extend the break, we are reviewing recent guidance and recommendations about how to create the best remote learning environment. More communication will be coming soon as we are committed to doing our best and getting this right for our student learners and staff.

School Board Meetings - In an effort to help slow down or stop the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the School Board is following Governor Sununu’s [Emergency Order #12](#) related to public meetings. We have implemented social distancing for all meetings. Therefore, the town hall will be closed to the public and only 3 people will be in the physical presence of the meeting. The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Litchfield TV, and a phone number will be provided for the public to call and listen to the meeting. Public comments, including concerns about accessing the meeting, must be sent via email to Christina Harrison, School Board Vice-Chair, at charrison@litchfieldsd.org. Please copy Michele Flynn, Administrative Assistant, at meflynn@litchfieldsd.org.

Public comments shall be made without expectation of a response by any School Board Members to matters raised by such commentary. Comments and statements may be made on matters of public concern directly related to the district's policies, programs and operations. Public commentary shall be limited to 3 minutes per person and must identify the first and last name and address of the commenter.

Continue to stick together, Litchfield! We got this!!!

Mike Jette, Superintendent of Schools