

March 14, 2020

Dear Families,

This letter is a follow-up to David Fleishman's email that was sent yesterday afternoon, March 13. I've pasted the text of his letter below for your reference. I hope the information below helps clarify some Oak Hill specific information. We are working very closely with the district and the other Newton elementary, middle and high schools. We understand you may have many questions; we will share the latest information as soon as we have it. Thank you for all for your messages of support and for reaching out with questions over the past 24 hours.

- Students are not expected to complete any assignments until the state and district determine what the expectations may be for supporting student learning and student social-emotional health during the closures.
- Food resources, as well as additional resources and updates related to COVID-19, can be found on the NPS website at: <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/COVID19>
- The NPS Office of Teaching and Learning is assembling a collection of materials to provide enrichment and connectedness opportunities for your children. The materials will provide educational opportunities and activities at grade level for your children while school is closed. They are not intended to replace classroom instruction, or to substitute for instruction in any way. Rather, they are supplemental - curated grade-level activities that are interesting and fun and encourage students to explore new topics on their own.
- Teachers and counselors have been asked to not communicate about assignments or upcoming work until there is further direction.
- Reading a book or writing/sketching in a journal are great options to continue the learning process until we have more information.
- Exercising and using time for creativity are other helpful options.
- The Main Office is closed and students and families are not allowed in the building at this time. If you have urgent questions about student records, please email me.

As David mentioned, all meetings and school activities have been postponed. We will be revising our schedule for the Term 2 report card once we resume normal school functioning. I look forward to rescheduling other key events that we had to postpone this week and next. Please take care during the days ahead, and email me if I can help.

Sincerely,
John

David Fleishman's Letter sent on March 13:

March 13, 2020

Dear NPS Families,

We write to provide you with an update on our school closure related to COVID-19. While we continue to assess the situation and ultimately make a firm decision on the length of our closure, we want to let you know what to expect over the next few days.

Because we had only used one of our five "snow days" when we decided to close, the days out of school until Wednesday, March 18, will be considered "snow days." Only these four days are required to be made up at the end of the school year, which means **that the last day of school for students is now firmly set for Wednesday, June 24.** As with any snow day, there are no expectations of academic work by students and teachers are not expected to provide assignments or instruction. Next week, we will provide you with an update on next steps to support student learning.

We know a school closure may impact our most vulnerable families, especially those experiencing food scarcity. Food resources, as well as additional resources and updates related to COVID-19, can be found on our website at:

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/COVID19>

As a reminder, the decision to close schools is an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. **It will only be effective if the community also takes steps to practice self-isolation, monitor for any symptoms, and avoid large gatherings.** We need all community members to do their part or the school closure will not be successful in limiting the spread of the virus. Of course, all school activities regardless of location, including athletics, parent/teacher conferences, club meetings, and extra-curricular classes are cancelled until further notice.

We will be in touch with you next week as our plans progress. Thank you for your patience as we navigate this unprecedented situation.

Sincerely,

David Fleishman, Superintendent of Schools