March 24, 2020

Dear Harrisburg School District Parents and Guardians,

In the span of two weeks the landscape of our nation has changed. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed our lives and daily routines, leading us to practice social distancing, and to pause before engaging in the simplest of tasks, such as washing our hands. While this may be our new normal, in my humble opinion, the passion and care of our community only became stronger. I am extremely proud of the Harrisburg Community in its effort to rally around each other during these difficult times.

The community and School District staff came together last week in an amazing effort to ensure no student would go without food. Our community partners then doubled down on their efforts to ensure food boxes would be available on a first come, first served basis for Harrisburg School District families two days per week at our designated “Grab and Go” meal sites, located across the city. I am also very proud of how our School District rose to the occasion, showing that we understand the importance of coming together and placing service before self.

Today, the Honorable Governor Tom Wolf announced all schools in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania will remain closed through at least Monday, April 6, 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 response efforts. The mandated closure order could be extended beyond April 6th if necessary to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19. Today’s order from Governor Wolf allows schools to continue the distribution of meals during this time. Please continue to check our website for updates.

During the school closure, it is critical that your child stay healthy and engaged academically. In order to support academic efforts at home, the District’s Academic Services Department launched a comprehensive online academic enrichment page for you. Please make sure you view the page at www.hbgasd.us. We want to do more, but we need your help! Beginning tomorrow, we will be conducting a survey to gain more information regarding technology in the home. When a staff member calls you to conduct the survey, please answer their call. Your input is critical as we assess our ability to offer enhanced academic enrichment programming and/or planned instructional opportunities for our students.

I will continue to keep you updated as we progress through the coming weeks. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we do our best to navigate these unchartered waters.

Thank you,

Mr. Chris Celmer
Acting Superintendent
Harrisburg School District

“Empowering Academic Achievers and Lifelong Learners”