

CONEMAUGH VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mr. Shane Hazenstab, Superintendent

Jeffrey Miller, Jr./Sr. High School Principal

Rebecca Castiglione, Elementary Principal

Dear CVSD parents and guardians of students who receive special education services:

During this challenging time, I hope that you and your family are well. I know that it is your priority to stay healthy, be able to pay your bills and put food on your family's table.

Throughout our district, all educators have been busy preparing and beginning to provide educational opportunities for all of our students. At this time, the district is using an Enrichment/Review educational model as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The goal is for students to retain and build upon prior learning.

From a special education perspective, each educator is attempting to implement your child's respective IEP with "a good faith effort" as it is written and has been previously implemented to provide FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education). The case manager for each student will attempt to contact you to determine current progress and needs. For students who participate in one or more academic content areas in the regular education setting, educational opportunities will be provided by those teachers mainly in a remote manner via the Internet. However if your family does not have access to the Internet and/or an appropriate device or if remote learning is not age or developmentally appropriate, then please communicate this concern with the respective teacher. Together as a team, we will then provide traditional paper/pencil or pen learning opportunities.

You may contact the school district at 535-5005 at your earliest convenience to reserve a Chromebook and to schedule a date and time to pick it up. If you are unable to come to the district to get it, then please arrange for us to deliver it to you. Atlantic Broadband is offering free Internet access at this time for 60 days. If you need assistance obtaining this service, please also contact the district and the school social worker will help you with this task.

For students who receive itinerant emotional and/or autistic support and/or related services such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy or Social Work, the respective service provider will provide that support remotely via the Internet with video and audio or telephone as age and developmentally appropriate.

A variety of learning modes are being provided by our district beyond remote and paper/pencil or pen activities. The special education teacher(s) for each student will provide one or more lists

of educational activities which your child is encouraged to do at home with the support of you, any other adults or perhaps older siblings. In the future, a list of educational websites will be posted on the district website. For now, if able, you are encouraged to find them using Google. They include Edmentum, a math program which every student in the district has used based on their individual math level (contact your child's teacher for log-in information). Scholastic also provides multiple no cost sets of reading materials which may also be used based on each student's specific reading level (see the enclosure that has log-in information). Vocabulary Spelling City provides free practice for every child based on his/her individual skill levels (see the enclosure that has log-in information). Learning A-Z provides Raz-Kids and Headsprout to improve reading skills. Also, Scholastic has posted materials for students K-9 in all content areas including social-emotional learning. Their website is www.scholastic.com/learnathome. In the future, we will also be providing grade-level learning bundles in the areas of reading, writing, math, science and social studies for each grade K-8 and one packet for grades 9-12.

We are expected to maintain all special education files during this time. We will be following typical timelines for IEP meetings, Evaluation and Re-Evaluation Reports. To gain your participation, we will be using standard mail, e-mail and video/audio platforms such as Zoom. For parts of evaluations which require one-on-one testing, classroom observations, etc., we will complete the report as we are able now. We will then finish them once we return to traditional school.

Once we return to traditional schooling, the IEP team for each student will meet to determine the amount and type of compensatory education necessary and appropriate for each student. As always, I appreciate the excellent support that CVSD educators receive from you. You are understanding and realistic. As you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any educator in the district including me.

Thank you,

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