

Emailed March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Seekonk Families,

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support. In a short amount of time local educators are being asked to transition to "Distance Learning" without much guidance at the state or federal level. None of us got into education to teach this way. We will do our best to keep kids learning to their potential in Seekonk in the midst of this global pandemic.

We know your kids are going to be fine, but we miss them and we worry about them. Although we know you can't recreate the entire school experience at home, please encourage and provide support for your kids to spend at least a couple hours each day reading, writing, creating, communicating, and working hard. Provide a safe and structured setting. Students thrive off of routines in school. Have your kids get exercise and also provide some structure for them.

Please refrain from comparing or scrutinizing your children's teachers or schools on Facebook or social media. And please refrain from comparing Seekonk to other schools or districts as well. We are in this together. Our educators are navigating new seas and we are figuring this out as we go. Rest assured our educators are doing their best because like you, they want what is best for your children. Tomorrow principals will be sending out email lists of your children's educators at each school for you to reach out to them if you have any questions or need anything.

For this week, educators will focus on making a virtual and/or personal connection, taking a "less is more" approach at first. Although teachers have our permission to post activities and assignments, our goal at this time is to reach out to students/families, strengthen student skills in areas already taught (review), and provide enrichment. We want to provide students with review and enrichment so that they can maintain readiness and a connection with learning. We want to provide resources to students so that they are ready to pick up when we return.

Next week and into the future, if there is an extended school closure, teachers will shift from making that connection with students to posting more activities and assignments to facilitate new learning experiences.

We are concerned about our students' social/emotional well being. Our school counselors, social workers, nurses, school psychologists, and other educators are available to support families. Some of our special educators will be working collaboratively with our grade level and content area teachers; they are also available to students and families to offer support and academic assistance. Please be advised that the service delivery will look very different during distance learning, but we will do our best for our students to be successful. I am confident that our work will continue to support all students.

We are in this together. Feel free to email your child's teacher or principal once those staff lists are sent home tomorrow, or email [KonkCares@seekkonkschools.org](mailto:KonkCares@seekkonkschools.org) if we can help with anything else. We have many staff members who are eager to help!

Thank you and I hope your children and family are doing as well as can be given these circumstances. Sincerely,  
Rich Drolet. Ed.D.