

CONTINENTAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Update April 2, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Community:

At his daily briefing on Monday, March 30, Governor DeWine announced the mandate that all K-12 school buildings will continue to stay closed through Friday, May 1st.

As a result of Monday's mandate from Governor DeWine, the Continental Local School District will take the following compliance steps:

- **School buildings will be closed for students and public through Friday, May 1st at 3:00 pm**
- **All student-related activities through this time frame are suspended. This includes all field trips, athletic practices, academic, extra-curricular and athletic events.**
- **All use of school facilities by students and the public will be prohibited in that time frame. This includes gymnasiums, weight rooms, indoor batting cages, baseball and softball diamonds, and public walking in our hallways.**

We want to express our appreciation to you, the parents, students, staff and community for all your cooperation and assistance during this unprecedented time. Obviously, this situation is proving to be a trying time for all of us. Everything you have done to continue to learn, to teach, to guide, to stay safe and healthy during this crisis has been remarkable and appreciated.

With the extension to May 1st for school buildings to be closed, we continue our efforts to be the very best for your son/daughter. Based on what we have experienced with the distance learning format and what we consider our needs to be after two-plus weeks, we are adjusting our focus for next week (April 6-10). Students will not be receiving any new materials for homework, assessments, etc. Instead, the first week of this extended mandated school closure (April 6-10) will be spent allowing our staff to concentrate on the following:

- **Virtual Professional Development:** In collaboration with curriculum personnel at the ESC, staff members will hold scheduled virtual conferencing meetings with fellow county educators in their subject area/grade level. These sessions will focus on best distance learning practices and sharing of ideas on how to best deliver learning, create assessments, etc. The hope here is that staff will exchange good ideas and subsequently utilize the shared knowledge to serve your son/daughter.
- **Playing Catch-up:** Staff members will be focusing their academic efforts on contacting students who are missing expected work from the first two-plus weeks of the distance learning format. Parents of students with missing work are strongly encouraged to respond to the staff's attempts to reach you and/or your son/daughter. As part of these communications, staff members will set time submission of the missing work.

Specifics you may need to know from your elementary or high school principal

ELEMENTARY

- On Tuesday, April 7 and Wednesday, April 8 from 12pm - 6pm parents can pick up supplies.
 - Chromebooks will be available for K-2 students and students who did not take one the last time.
 - Packets can be picked up for preschool - grade 2 and students who do not have the internet.
 - Materials will be on tables in the foyer outside of the elementary office. Teachers will not be present and students will not be permitted in the classrooms.
 - Completed packets can be dropped off. Parents can also use the Notes App on their phones to scan or take pictures of completed packets and send them to teachers. This would eliminate the need to turn in packets.
 - Students who are doing online work and already have their Chromebooks do not have to pick up any supplies.
 - We are recommending that students return their library books.
- Teachers are supplying three weeks worth of paper/pencil lessons for students who are unable to complete online work. Students who are using online materials will receive their lessons each week starting April 14.
- The next phase of working on packets and/or distance learning will begin on Tuesday, April 14.
- Students who are doing their work online need to complete their assignments on time. Grades will be entered into the gradebook and work will appear as missing if it is not completed. The second set of packets will be collected in May and will be graded.
- Students will receive letter grades for the 4th quarter. Students who choose not to do work will receive a failing grade.
- Teachers are always available during the day to provide support through Class DoJo, Google Classroom, and email. Parents can also call the elementary building and leave a message. Messages are checked on a daily basis.
- Students need to check their Google Classroom daily, especially grades 3-6.
- Spring pictures have not arrived.

JH/HS

- The next phase of distance learning will begin on Tuesday, April 14th.
- New lessons and assignments will be posted by 9am on Monday each week for the next three weeks. All assignments for that week are due on Sunday night. Anything not turned in by Sunday night will be considered late and your grade will be reduced by up to 50%.
 - Assignments that are not submitted by the due date will appear as “missing” in ProgressBook. You can still turn in the assignment and receive at least half credit, even if it is past the Sunday deadline.
- We will continue to use the CHS grading scale and use letter grades for your 4th quarter grades.
 - Students that do not give effort and do not participate in distance learning will receive a failing grade for the 4th quarter (and risk loss of credit (HS) or retention (JH)).
 - **REMINDER:** 4th quarter grades will determine athletic eligibility for soccer & volleyball for next year!!!
- Teachers will be establishing “virtual office hours” for you to meet with them in a virtual setting to help support the materials they are providing online. Watch your email and the website for further details on the days/times.
- Students are asked to check their grades and their email daily and communicate regularly with teachers.
- The School Musical and Prom have been postponed (not cancelled) until a time it is safe to hold for our students. The spring sports season is also on hold until the Governor and/or the OHSAA make a final decision.
- Students without internet access can drop off packets from the first three weeks and pick up packets for the next three weeks from the HS Office on Tuesday, April 7th from 10am-4pm.

To stay up-to-date with student quarter grades, parents are encouraged to continue checking ProgressBook (<https://parentaccess.noacsc.org>). We will continue to also utilize our text alert system to provide you with necessary updates and information. If you are not already utilizing our text alert system, you can subscribe here: <http://ohioalerts.org/Continental>

FEEDING OUR KIDS

The Continental community has always stepped up to assist those in need. For the last few years, we have had a program at Continental Local School called *Packs for Pirates*. A group from the Continental community got together and developed this program to make sure students in need had food over the weekends.

We will continue to use *Packs for Pirates* and the Continental Local Schools cafeteria to support these students over the next few weeks.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE:

Thursday, March 12th - 65 packs of food went home with students who are signed up with *Pack for Pirates*.

Tuesday, March 17th - *Packs for Pirates* sent home 67 packs of food along with vouchers to purchase food at R&B Meats in Continental. These vouchers allowed for one pound of ground beef, two pounds of lunch meat, hot dogs, and other foods to be purchased. Students picked up their packs during an open house at the school on the 17th. There was enough food in these packs to last at least two weeks, maybe more.

On Monday, March 30th - Packet for Pirates in conjunction with our school cafeteria sent food to over 40 homes delivering over 75 bags of food. Our hope is for this food to be able to last a family at least 2 weeks if not longer.

WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING IN OUR FUTURE: **(UPDATED, PLEASE READ)**

On **Tuesday, April 28th**, the Circle of Friends Food Pantry, located at 300 North Main Street, Continental, Ohio, will be open from 6PM to 7PM. The pantry will have PRE-BOXED food and will deliver it to YOUR CAR. **Please call ahead if you are not currently on the list to receive food from the Circle of Friends Pantry.** You can call Shelly Kosch at 419-969-4194 or Pastor Chuck Schmunk at 419-438-0903 with questions or assistance.

On **Wednesday, April 15th** the Continental Local School will be making deliveries from the *Packs for Pirates* group. The packs delivered on the 15th will be another two weeks worth of food. From 2PM to 3PM we will be bringing a bus or school van around to the homes of those students currently on this list to receive food. **If you did not receive food on March 30th and are in need of support or If you would prefer to pick up your packs or if you are not on the list but feel it would be helpful for you and your family to receive this type of assistance, please call the school at 419-596-3860, leave a message and we will get back to you.** After April 15th, we will wait to see what we are being told by Governor DeWine and will adjust our program accordingly.

HOW CAN I HELP?

First, thank you to everyone who has made donations over the past 2 weeks to help support both the Packs for Pirates and the Circle of Friends Food Pantry. These donations are put to good use. Unfortunately, this need is growing rather than shrinking. If you are able, please reach out to see how you may help. Thank you.

The *Packs for Pirates* and Circle of Friends Food Pantry are always looking for donations and financial support. Canned foods, soups, and boxed pasta meals are always needed. Individually boxed cereals, snack bars, snack cups etc. are also helpful. If you would like to assist with the purchase of perishable items, financial donations are always accepted. Checks can be made out to *Packs for Pirates* or Circle of Friends Food Pantry. Checks can be mailed to Continental United Methodist Church, PO Box 356, Continental, Ohio 45831 or call Pastor Chuck Schmunk at 419-438-0903.

Ways to get connectivity:

MetaLINK: Call 888-999-8002

Sprint/T-Mobile Sprint/T-Mobile- Unlimited data for 60 days- For more information:

<https://www.sprint.com/en/landings/covid-19.html>

Verizon Verizon-Support for customers without unlimited data

<https://www.verizon.com/about/news/update-verizon-serve-customers-covid-19>

TDS New customers with students or financial need will be eligible for 60 days of free internet access, to help assist with work- or school-at-home scenarios. Call 1-888-233-0001

<https://tdstelecom.com/about/news/categories/tds/TDSAnnouncesFreeBroadband.html>

Continental Local Schools appreciate your efforts and commitment to your child's education. To help you stay informed, please use our website: www.continentalpirates.org. You can also get the latest updates on COVID-19 at coronavirus.ohio.gov which is updated daily at 2 pm by the Ohio Department of Health as well as hear Ohio Governor Mike DeWine on Facebook, PBS, and the Ohio Channel every day at 2 pm.

To recap:

- **No new work from April 6th through 10th. Virtual school resumes on April 14th.**
- **Teachers will be reaching out to students who are struggling with the first 3 weeks of work to get that completed by the 9th of April.**
- **Drop off of old completed material and pick up of new materials will be April 7 & 8 at the elementary and April 7 at the high school. See above for specific directions.**

Yours in Education,

Danny F. Kissell
Superintendent