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Dear Trumbull Educational Community,

At Monday's teleconference call with the Governor, he announced that schools will remain closed until Monday, April 20th; however, in a press release on Tuesday, the Governor stated that Connecticut schools are unlikely to reopen until the fall. As such, and if implemented, it appears that spring sports will not be offered.

Some people have conveyed to me that they are very impressed with the communication received regarding a variety of school related issues (although some decisions have not yet been determined due to a lack of "outside" decisions not being made yet). Trumbull residents should be proud of how the students and staff have responded to the crisis as evidenced by the following activities we have been involved in:

- Activated Distance Learning for PreK-12 students, including distributing 300+ related Chromebooks
- Provided a daily average of almost 400 free breakfasts/lunches to any youngster enrolled in the Trumbull Public Schools (as well as their siblings)
- Returned a significant number of school-stored medications (over 308) to our parents
- Returned over 350 musical instruments to our students
- Continued the registration process for the current school year

I believed it to be important to involve our students on "the front lines" of combating this disease. As such, I videotaped a short message to students in grades 6-12 stressing their important role in addressing COVID-19. I thanked them, in particular, for their cooperation, energy, efforts, and active involvement in following the recommended Federal, State, and local guidelines. Our grades 6-12 population, as role models, must emphasize to their peers that the full cooperation of our student body is essential to our uphill fight. Their positive response to our commitment to Distance Learning and their acceptance of the cancellation of athletics and afterschool programs reflect their commitment to meet this challenge. I have asked them to promote the guidelines set forth by our skilled professionals, for if followed, this crisis will be more effectively and expeditiously solved. I also encouraged them to promote the concept of social distancing, which is considered one of the most effective methods to "flatten the curve." I emphasized for each of them to not be complacent but take this dilemma seriously. (If you wish, you can access this message to the grade 6 through 12 students via <https://youtu.be/hp1jCLW3ACo>.)

Trumbull Health Director Lucy Bango has done a superb job in overseeing the Town's efforts and has shared what she considers one of the key components an individual can do and that is social distancing.

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SOCIAL DISTANCING are actions taken by Public Health officials to slow or stop the spread of a highly infectious disease. All residents should adhere to social distancing guidelines that have been put in place. This means no social gatherings, play dates, or congregating with groups of any size. Even small groups are too much of a risk.

If we are to slow the spread of disease, it is imperative that we follow these measures. While they may seem severe, they are the best way to “flatten the curve.”

- Stay home as much as possible except to work, pick up essentials, or to receive medical care
- If you need to go out, maintain a 6 foot distance between you and others
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue

COVID-19 testing sites are becoming more available to those residents who are experiencing symptoms. **A physician’s order must be given prior to testing being scheduled at one of the local testing sites.**

Although all schools are closed, and actual meetings and gatherings have been postponed, the Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting via video conference the week of March 30 (exact date to be forwarded). There are several areas that need to be addressed . . . April break, supplemental appropriation, spring sports, financial details, staffing...

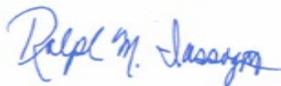
Our transition to the State endorsed Distance Learning plan appears to be progressing very smoothly, with a minimum of “glitches.” Dr. Budd and Director of Digital Learning Christina Hefele have done an outstanding job in developing these programs and feedback confirms that learning is taking place, although not in our usual fashion. Distance Learning will continue based on the Governor’s Executive Order that schools will be closed, whenever the ending date is decided.

We know that staff and our Trumbull education community are receiving a great deal of information over the internet and sometimes it can be overwhelming, particularly when the Governor also forwards to you several Executive Orders. We ask that you try to keep the educational component separate from the governmental aspect of addressing this heinous crisis. We thank you for your cooperation, especially in monitoring your child’s lessons and assisting the teacher in the work provided.

The district will continue to try to provide you with pertinent information as we progress through the year; please know that several key issues are yet to be decided, including date of the THS graduation and prom, and spring sports and activities. Once these topics are finalized, we will forward more information to you as soon as possible.

Again, on behalf of the Board of Education, I thank you for joining us in our unified effort to move forward as best we can as we face a dilemma of such magnitude.

Sincerely,



Ralph M. Iassogna
Acting Superintendent