

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

EASTPORT SCHOOLS – SHEAD HIGH/EASTPORT ELEMENTARY

PAUL THERIAULT | 207-853-5711/5702 | ptheriault@shead.org

March 26, 2020

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

I am writing today hoping that you are all doing well. Please know that you are foremost in our thoughts here at Eastport Elementary and Shead High schools.

Here we are in Day #8 of our school closure. It feels like Month #8. Can you believe how different things are today than they were just a few short days ago? Sadly, I am not sure that there is an end in sight at this time. We are holding out hope for school to be back in session on April 27th. This would be great news for all.

First, let me say thank you for your patience with our staff as we have entered into uncharted waters to bring you “distance learning”. Please know that every employee at Eastport Schools is working at a different level than they have ever done before. I am proud of the tenacity and professionalism that they have shown in such a short period of time to bring a quality level of education to each of you. This has not been an easy task. They have made plans, evaluated the effectiveness of those plans and have, and continue to do so, made adjustments as necessary. I am confident that they have nothing but the best interest of the students in their minds.

We continue to bring schoolwork to your homes if needed. We have traveled from Whiting to Robbinston, to Charlotte and every town in between. We are happy that we can do this and just want to help in any way that is possible. If you need anything delivered, please do not hesitate to ask.

Next, let me say how proud I am of you, students and parents, for entering into an area of expertise that is uncomfortable for many of you. Your commitment of cooperation with the staff is outstanding. I am witnessing a level of communication that is above and beyond what has happened in the past. This is a true partnership for all the stakeholders, and I thank you.

On the food front – We are now serving in excess of 80 breakfasts/lunches every Monday through Friday. These meals are helping to feed anyone in the household ages 18 and under. This service is available free of charge for all children regardless of their economic situation. I can tell you the faces on the children when we are delivering meals is priceless. We were talking the other day how it

reminded us of an old-time ice cream truck coming around the neighborhood with a treat for the kids. This service will also continue during April Vacation, the week of April 20th, so we can make sure that our kiddos can have a good meal through these tough times.

Our student food pantry is also well stocked. This can be accessed by calling the school and making an appointment. In addition to food, we also have a limited supply of cleaning materials and toiletries. Please make use of this pantry. It is there for you. If you cannot make it in, let us know and we will help in any way possible.

Folks, these are tough times. I am sure that you are all tired of hearing the word Coronavirus or terms COVID-19, shelter-in-place, and social distancing; we all are. But please know that we are there to do our part. I wish we could offer more face-to-face teaching, but we need to keep everyone safe and practice our own "social distancing." That doesn't mean we are not available in other ways – emails, phone calls and social media.

If we are not meeting your needs in any way, please let us know. If you have any ideas of ways in which we can improve, please let us know. If you know of someone in crisis and could use any of our services, please let us know. We truly care for you all.

And lastly, I want you all to know that I miss you deeply. Seeing students is what keeps me energized. Drop me an email and let me know how you are doing. I do get reports on each student, but direct contact would be great also.

My direct phone line is 853-5702. My email is ptheriault@shead.org. As a reminder, for all general information and to access the food bank, please call 853-6252 for EES and 853-6254 for Shead. Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Our phone lines are open for messages every day.

Please hang in there. Practice social distancing and good hygiene so we can see you sooner than later. Take care.

Sincerely,

Paul Theriault
Principal, Eastport Schools