March 16, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians of NMS Students,

I hope this communication finds you and your family well. As you may have heard, per Governor Baker, students will be out of school until at least April 7, 2020. The district leadership team continues to consult the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as well as the Massachusetts Department of Health to make the best decisions with available information. Needless to say, this is a fluid situation and guidance appears to change daily. We will be providing updates as we learn more. We ask your partnership to ensure that today and tomorrow are treated as planning days, allowing the district’s leadership team and teachers time to plan, communicate, and disseminate our plan for continued engagement. Starting on Wednesday March 18, 2020 we ask that students start checking their Schoology and email regularly and begin re-engaging in academics.

The Commissioner of Education, Jeffrey Riley, has explicitly communicated that no district may substitute online learning for face-to-face instruction. It is impossible to replicate the entirety of the school day. We have asked teachers to find ways to keep students engaged with their learning. We have encouraged teachers to provide optional academic resources and practice opportunities so that students can maintain their current skill level and enrich their learning. Please know that any student work completed will not be graded but should serve as a way for students to stay engaged with their learning.

At this time, we will not be issuing a third quarter report card. Further guidance on how we will provide a final grade will be forthcoming. As is typical during third quarter, there will be future communications regarding the course registration process for 8th grade students into high school and 6th and 7th grade students into their classes at the middle school.

We will be cancelling all field trips for the remainder of the school year, including the 8th grade Washington DC trip, the 7th grade Canobie trip, and the 6th grade Camp Burgess trip. We are working diligently with NationsClassroom to maximize the refund to families for the Washington DC trip. Information regarding this reimbursement will be sent once it has been confirmed. Additionally ELA MCAS as well as the musical have both been postponed. April Vacation remains on the calendar as scheduled.

We understand that some students may have medication housed at the schools. If you are in need of this medication, please email me and school nurse, Kelly Roche, at kelly.roche@norwellschools.org and we will make arrangements for you to pick up the medication. Building administrators will be available by email. Please contact us with any questions you may have. We feel incredibly fortunate to work within such a supportive community.

Thank you,

Derek J. Sulc, NMS Principal
Catherine M. Hyder, Assistant Principal