

Dear Members of the Portsmouth Schools Community,

I hope you are all well as we get ready to wrap up our first week of distance learning in Portsmouth. All of us in the Portsmouth School Department miss seeing the bright and smiling faces of our students! Please continue to stay connected with your school(s) and teacher(s). We will proceed into next week with the same protocols and procedures that have been outlined in each school's district learning plan. Information related to [Portsmouth Distance Learning](#) can be found on our district and school web pages. Each school will launch next week's distance learning expectations for students on Monday at 8:00am.

Governor Raimondo announced today that on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> she will be sharing additional information related to school closures and distance learning in RI. While we will wait to hear more specifics on that please know that our staff will be hard at work next week planning for the next phase in Portsmouth.

I have a few new announcements to share today:

Next week we will be moving into a more **restricted phase of building access**. Each of our buildings will be completely closed to the public. This will extend to our school playground areas as well, per Town order. If there is an emergency situation that you did not anticipate please contact the school principal. Staff is available to answer phone or email messages remotely.

We will be **extending the end of the 3rd quarter marking period (two weeks) to April 21st**. This will allow ample time for students and teachers to finalize work/grading for anything that had been assigned prior to March 13th (the date of the initial closure announcement).

If you need assistance with **internet access** to support student distance learning throughout the school closure period please refer this [information](#) from **Cox Communications**. If you need assistance in working with Cox on any of these offers please contact your child's principal.

Here are some additional resources I have previously shared with you:

[United Way RI](#) (or 2-1-1 on any phone device) is a free and confidential resource for assistance with housing, food, and many other needs with specialists available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

[RIBHDDH](#) or 401-414-LINK (5465) can provide assistance with behavioral or mental health care needs.

**Grab and go breakfast and lunches** are available for all Portsmouth students at **Portsmouth Middle School, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00-10:30am**. The location for these services is set by strict state and federal guidelines too numerous to expand upon here. Please know that we have worked very hard, along with our district food service provider, Chartwells, to be able to offer these services to Portsmouth students. Any Portsmouth student can visit PMS during these hours, with or without a parent, to receive these free breakfast and lunch items. No questions asked, no paperwork needed.

A fully functional **Emergency Operations Center is set up at Portsmouth Town Hall**. This EOC is operational seven days a week. For more information on the Portsmouth EOC, including how to volunteer your time or resources, click [here](#).

My continued best wishes to all of you and your families during these uncertain times.

Tom Kenworthy  
Superintendent

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