



WEST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"Schools Committed to Excellence"

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NEIL C. CAVALLARO

Superintendent of Schools

April 1, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents, Guardians, and Students,

I am writing to you today because I realize that many families have expressed some concerns regarding our distance learning program. Let me try to put your minds at ease.

First, and most important, our staff understands that many of our families have more than one child in our system and in many cases, at multiple schools. In addition to that, you may have a limited number of devices at home. Also, with many parents working from home, students cannot get online to complete assignments or be available when attendance is taken. **Our teachers understand what you're dealing with and will be flexible.** I am encouraging you to reach out to your child's teachers and explain your situation to them. Support staff is also available to assist you, so **contact the school** with any concerns.

Second, many are worried because you may not have a computer or access to the internet at home. Again, our entire staff has been putting in extra hours creating work packets and arranging for pick-ups and drop-offs of completed work. **While it would be ideal for every child to have their own device, it is not required,** and unfortunately, the school district doesn't have enough to distribute to everyone. We are continuing to reach out to several vendors in an effort secure laptops that you may be able to purchase at discounted rate. We are also in the

process of taking advantage of Governor Lamont's plan to distribute 60,000 Chromebooks to high school students across the State of Connecticut. In fact, just yesterday we submitted an application. Know, however, these devices are in such high demand because the COVID-19 pandemic, the reality is that it may take a while to receive them even if we are successful in securing them.

Finally, I want to once again remind you that this entire situation is new to all of us. Over the last several weeks, I have spoken with many of our staff members along with parents, and students. You've given me many good ideas, and much "food for thought." I want to encourage you to continue to speak out.

I hope that in the coming days, I'll have more information to share with you, including a possible return date! In the meantime, do your best to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil C. Cavallaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "C".

Neil C. Cavallaro
Superintendent of Schools