

March 24, 2020

Dear Camden School Staff,

One week ago on Monday, our students did not attend school for the first time as a result of COVID 19. In the past week, we delivered instructional materials to the home of every student in case we were going to be closed until the middle of April. Students are working to complete all of the work they currently have received. We will look for different ways that students can share the completion of this work with their teachers since they are likely not to return to school any time soon.

Next, we are working this week to develop a plan to provide instruction to all students in their homes. This planning is in case we are closed for an extended period of time. The total amount of time schools will be closed is still unknown, but it looks like we may be closed for a longer time frame. In response to a longer school closure, our administrative team has started to develop a continuous instructional plan that will allow students to receive instruction and instructional materials while at home. This planning will include means for student work to be evaluated, the opportunity to provide feedback and be graded. The team understands that this plan will be designed to be flexible and can be adjusted as we move through the process.

When we did our teacher survey, some of you pointed out that not all of our students have access to the internet and devices. The plans being developed will address some of these challenges by attempting to expand Wi-Fi hot spots in our surrounding communities utilizing municipal buildings and school buildings to boost the Wi-Fi signal outside of the building. We have ordered Wi-Fi hot spots that will need to be tested and attached to our buildings and possibly some other municipal buildings. This will allow students without access to Wi-Fi to gain access by simply pulling up to the building in their vehicle. The district will also identify students who don't have a computer device to complete school work. We will offer these students a computer for them to receive, complete and turn in school work during the time we are closed. All of these things will take time to plan and execute.

The following is a draft outline for the rollout of this plan:

- The week of March 30 – Teachers will have a basic understanding of Camden’s Continuous Instructional Plan that will allow them to begin learning the technology associated with the plan, planning lessons and preparing them to be sent electronically.
- Mid April –
 - 1. Hot spots will be in place allowing students without access to Wi-Fi to have access to Wi-Fi.
 - 2. Distribute computer devices to all students who do not have one to complete school work.
- Mid-April - The District will launch our Continuous Instructional Plan and teachers will begin to share lessons with students using technology. Students will be able to complete the work and turn it back into each teacher.

Thank you to all the people that have been connecting with our students throughout this time from delivering food, to reading books, to video chatting, e-mailing, answering parent questions, and connecting via Facebook. It all has been overwhelming. It demonstrates how great our Camden Central School District family cares for our students.

I hope everyone can take some time to slow down and spend some time at home with their family. Now, is a time to reconnect and do some of the things with your family that you have wanted to do, but didn’t have the time.

Have a good day, stay home when you can and most of all continue to take care of each other.

Camden Strong!

Dr. Ravo Root
Superintendent of Camden Central Schools