

Darien Public Schools
COVID-19/eLearning Information
March 15, 2020

eLearning

Beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, there will be a tab located on the District's website: <https://www.darienps.org>, entitled "DPS eLearning." Students will access eLearning through this tab (elementary, middle and high school). The tabs are broken down by K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and grades 9-12. Other areas such as Special Areas, SRBI, and Support Services are also available to students. In addition to the content accessible through this tab, students in grades 9-12, at DHS will access e-learning through Google Classroom. You will receive a reminder email from your child's school later this evening. Content is expected to be refreshed every few days and/or as needed. You will see the "eLearning tab" evolve as our teams continue to add resources and additional support for students. If you have any questions regarding the content or materials, contact your school's Principal.

Student engagement with the eLearning is highly recommended, but will not be used for grading purposes.

Special Education

To support students with learning differences the following resources are available: There is a Support Services Tab and Social and Emotional Support Tab on the elementary school site, there is a Specially Designed Instruction tab on the MMS site, and there is access to DPS Special Education Google Classroom Resources and Activities on the DHS site.

For your reference, the following [letter](#) was sent to families from Ms. Shirley Klein, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services on Friday, March 13, 2020.

Waiver

Upon Board of Education approval, a waiver will be submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education requesting that the Darien Public School's e-learning model be used in lieu of added school days to the month of June. We continue to study various models to ensure that we have the ability to provide access for all students as outlined by the CSDE. We will update you *daily* on our District's status. In the event that a waiver is submitted and approved, our e-learning design will be modified to include other instructional elements. You will be provided with explicit instructions and student engagement expectations.

Technology Assistance

Regardless of the experience being offered, it is vital for students to have access to both technology and wifi. If you do not have access to wi-fi or technology, please contact the Darien Public Schools at <http://support.darienps.net> or call at 203-656-7400.

eLearning Resources

District and school administration have access to district email/resources and continue to work remotely. As such, they will not be available on site. If you have any questions/concerns regarding

your child or the eLearning, we are here to help, email your school-based leaders and/or District support.

Standardized Testing

The CSDE has not provided the District with a final decision on standardized testing. Given the circumstances, the District will make decisions based on what is most appropriate for our students and advocate on their behalf if/when it is needed.

AP Examination/College Board

Updates are available from AP Central, you can find those updates [here](#). The website's last update was dated March 13, 2020. The College Board is presently monitoring the situation.

Parent Resources

Linked [here](#) is a publication from the National Association of School Psychologists

Linked [here](#) is a publication from UNICEF

Social Distancing and Social Gathering

We realize that this can be difficult for children and families, however, during this period of time, we ask that students not congregate in large or even small groups. By doing this, we are all helping mitigate the spread of the virus. During this time, it is important to try to maintain as much routine as possible for all age-levels, but most certainly for our youngest students.

Please note that all school facilities and athletic fields are closed to school and town organizations for athletic practices or events of any nature. In keeping with social distancing guidelines, there should be no formal or informal gatherings on the fields.

Additionally, tutoring or athletic coaching between students and school employees should not be taking place.

Free & Reduced Lunch

We have coordinated with the Town of Darien's Human Services Department to ensure our students who are Free and Reduced eligible have meals during the school closure. Families who are eligible are encouraged to reach out to Myrese Nochomowitz (mnochomowitz@darienps.org), Darien Public Schools Director of Food Service or Alexandra Ramsetck (aramsteck@darienct.gov), Director of Human Services for the Town of Darien.