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April 2, 2020

Dear CTECS families and students,

As we enter into April, I hope that you and your family are well, and are adjusting to this new, but temporary way of life. It appears that our nation, state and communities may have some challenging days ahead of us. My hope is that if we all work together, our schools can remain a pillar of support and offer a sense of normalcy during hard times. Below is some new information for this week's update:

Distance Learning

This week was the first of our distance learning initiative, and while there were some challenges, I am very impressed with the way our students engaged with this new way of teaching and learning. They demonstrated professionalism, responsibility, and flexibility. I am so proud of them.

We will continue to reevaluate our distance learning methods and improve upon them in the coming weeks. An important voice in the improvement process is yours. If you have a question or suggestion concerning our distance learning program, or other coronavirus-related question, please fill out our [online feedback form](#). We will either respond to you individually, or work a response into our regular communications with all district families.

As a reminder, if you are a student who does not have a Chromebook or internet access, please contact your school immediately so that arrangements can be made. If you are experiencing technology issues, you can submit a [help ticket here](#).

April Vacation

We made an official decision to cancel April vacation this year. We will observe Good Friday (April 10, 2020) but students will be expected to continue with their online coursework from Monday, April 13 through Friday, April 17. Please note that teachers have the day off on April 17, but will post assignments the day before into Google Classroom for students.

The decision to cancel April vacation was made in order to keep our regularly scheduled last day of school before the coronavirus closure. More importantly, we are trying to provide continuity of education to the greatest extent possible. Please note that your school's Principal will share the last day of school with you, as every technical high school has a slightly different end date.

School Nurses

Remember that your school nurses can be a resource for you during this time. If you are experiencing any coronavirus symptoms, or have questions about your health, you can contact them. Their emails can be found through the staff listing on your school website. If medications have been left at school, please call your school

and make arrangements to pick them up. You'll receive a separate communication from your school nurse in the next few days.

Third Quarter Grades

The end date for the third quarter has been changed to Friday, April 17, 2020. Grades will be finalized by end of business on Friday, April 24, 2020.

Work-based Learning (WBL)

Please be advised that WBL is suspended across the district while schools are closed, however, students may choose to continue to report to work on their own.

Community Support

We are proud to share that our Manufacturing, and Mechanical Design and Engineering teachers from across CT's technical high schools have volunteered to use our 3D printing equipment to manufacture face masks for hospitals across Connecticut. They are working daily to provide this life-saving PPE to those that need it most. Additionally, we have collected all of our schools' goggles, gloves, and respirators for first responders and health care professionals statewide. We are working with the Department of Developmental Services on distribution.

Communications

We will continue to communicate with you regularly with important updates. Remember to visit our website, cttech.org/coronavirus, for past communications and resources. You may also follow us on social media @CTTechHS (facebook, twitter and Instagram) for updates. Finally, if you have not yet registered for ParentSquare I would urge you to do so. Unregistered users will receive a separate email invitation to set up their account in the coming days.

Thank you for your support and patience over the past several weeks. Please take care of yourself and your family.

Jeffrey Wihbey
Superintendent of Schools