

Good evening Parents, Guardians, and Students;

Agawam is following guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). DESE recommends school districts provide students and families with opportunities for enrichment and socialization during the closure. At this time, DESE has discouraged districts from attempting to replicate the school day in a virtual environment and from assigning traditional grades to assignments. Instead, DESE has suggested districts develop academic enrichment activities and opportunities for socialization that include contact with educators and other students and feedback on student work.

Although assignments are not being graded at this time, this is subject to change based on guidance from DESE. Teachers are purposefully designing learning activities that will help students maintain and improve their academic skills and that are linked to work students will be asked to do when they return to school.

In Agawam, we are greatly concerned students will choose not to engage in these learning activities and will fall behind others academically. Student participation is expected and is of great importance for their success. Regular and frequent practice and active participation (in academic and social emotional learning activities) and reviewing content is critical in order to try to minimize the impact our time out of the classroom will have upon students' return to school. If families elect to not have students engage during this time, upon students' return, parents should expect that there could possibly be a negative impact for their student that is not universally found for those who engaged

Regarding student wellness:

Families can access the district website for mental health and wellbeing resources.

Students in need of a computer device:

We currently have a limited supply of devices still available for students to use at home. We ask that if you still need a device for your student, to please contact the main office of your student's school. Principals will arrange device pick ups by appointment until our inventory is exhausted.

Thank you,

Steve Lemanski

Superintendent