

## Notification from: **Public Schools of Northborough & Southborough**

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough's highest priority is to support families and students during this extended closure, **which is currently from March 16, 2020, to April 6, 2020 (Governor Charlie Baker's New Orders as of 6:23 PM on 3/15/2020)**. Needless to say, facing a pandemic is requiring our educational community to rethink how we support our students when school is not in session.

I am pleased to share that the District is launching ***NSBORO-CONNECT***. I want to emphasize that ***NSBORO-CONNECT*** does not replicate, or replace day-to-day educational services and interactions among faculty, staff, and students. ***NSBORO-CONNECT*** is designed to help students stay connected to their teachers and provide **optional** learning opportunities to help students maintain their skills and stay engaged in learning. ***NSBORO-CONNECT*** will begin for students on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The program will stop the day prior to school reopening. Principals will launch ***NSBORO-CONNECT*** with an introductory email.

Lastly, tomorrow morning I will send an additional communication outlining how families can access food services as well as technology resources (devices) during this extended closure.

Respectfully,  
Gregory L. Martineau  
Superintendent of Schools

### **What is *NSBORO-CONNECT*?**

***NSBORO-CONNECT*** is the District's approach to offering **optional** learning experiences at home during the school closure.

### **Do my children have to participate in *NSBORO-CONNECT*?**

This will be **optional** for families and we recognize that some families may be unable or may choose not to participate.

### **When will *NSBORO-CONNECT* begin and end?**

***NSBORO-CONNECT*** will begin for students on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The program will stop the day prior to school reopening. **At the elementary level, your child's teacher will launch with an introductory email. At the middle and high school levels, teachers will launch via CANVAS.**

### **How will students/families access the suggested learning experiences?**

Educators will be in touch with students/families each school day via their typical mode of communication (email, Google Classroom, Seesaw, Bloomz, or CANVAS) to provide learning experiences for school days.

Grade spans will primarily rely on the following mechanisms to deliver learning experiences:

- PreK-2: Combination of packets and digital learning tools
- 3-5: Combination of Google Classroom and learning packets
- 6-12: CANVAS

**What if students need access to belongings that are located at school?**

On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, our schools will be open from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM for students to retrieve belongings.

**What if a student/family does not have access to technology at home?**

Parents/guardians will be able to request devices, if needed. The procedure will be communicated to families via One Call Now. The District is developing a pick-up procedure for families.

**How will students be assessed for report cards/grades?**

None of the work from *NSBORO-CONNECT* will be used to inform grades/reports cards because it is optional. Grades will be based on what happened before school closed and after it reopens.

**Will the days school is canceled need to be made up?**

No, regardless of how many days we are closed, the last day of school for the 2019-2020 academic year will be June 23, 2020.

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough are confident that our communities will rise to the challenge that we all face during this closure. We want to help students stay connected to their teachers and provide learning opportunities to help students maintain their skills and stay engaged in learning. We are using *NSBORO-CONNECT* as a model. Please email the teacher directly with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau  
Superintendent of Schools

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