

March 16, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As announced on Friday afternoon, all Pennsylvania schools are closed beginning Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27, 2020 by order of Governor Wolf. Meanwhile, we are able to share the following information with you, based on guidance provided to schools on Sunday, March 15 from the PA Department of Education's Office of the Secretary of Education:

Schools are not required to provide any type of instruction during the closure of schools due to COVID-19 response efforts. The PA Department of Education recognizes that the rapidly evolving pandemic may make it impossible to implement continuity of education plans.

So what can my child do during the closure? Several options that Sylvan Heights educators believe to be great ways for students to remain actively engaged in learning include, but are not limited to:

- Reading books, magazines, or the newspaper every day.
- Keeping a journal of this unprecedented time or writing a reflection on what has been learned from this experience.
- Practicing math facts or doing puzzles and activities that keep the brain active.
- Making a card or writing a letter to a grandparent or some other elderly person who may be feeling lonely during this time of isolation.
- Creating or inventing something.
- Doing an art project.
- Practicing a musical instrument or singing.
- Taking a walk outdoors (but keeping away from others).
- Cooking or baking with a family member.

Keeping a routine and schedule for your child is important during these two weeks so that students will be ready to return to school after the closure. Social isolation is reportedly the most important factor in keeping the COVID-19 virus from spreading, so it is best that children remain at home and not engage in community play time with large groups of other children.

Comcast is providing FREE internet to families in need for two months. There are also many companies that are providing FREE access to educational websites and apps during the closure.

Again, we thank you for your patience and cooperation during this challenging time.

Susan Roth
Principal/CAO
Sylvan Heights Science Charter School