



Raymond J. Kinder
Superintendent

Tamaqua Area High School
500 Penn Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
Phone: (570) 668-1901
Fax: (570) 668-2970

Tamaqua Area Middle School
502 Penn Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
Phone: (570) 668-1210
Fax: (570) 668-5027

Tamaqua Elementary School
1 Boyle Avenue
Tamaqua, PA 18252
Phone: (570) 668-3306
Fax: (570) 668-3235

West Penn Elementary School
185 School Drive
New Ringgold, PA 17960
Phone: (570) 386-5051
Fax: (570) 386-3226

April 17, 2020

Tamaqua Area SD Families:

We hope you are doing well and feel supported by the school district during this difficult time. It is important to keep spirits up and have a positive attitude.

A few items to update:

1. **Meals-** At this time we will continue to provide meals for pickup each Monday and Thursday, behind the senior high school from the cafeteria doors.
2. **Educational Program-** On Tuesday, April 14th, we began planned instruction for all students. Students are receiving content not previously taught in class. I emphasize to you once again to stay engaged. Some areas have had significant participation, but others are struggling. All students K-12 have work to do. If you are a parent or guardian and your child is not completing assignments, I strongly encourage you to work with your child's teacher and move on this quickly.
3. **Communication-** Members of the school district have reached out to all students and families. Teachers, paraprofessionals, administrative assistants and administrators have made numerous phone calls, sent many emails and have performed multiple home visits to help students and families stay on track. If you/your child is not engaged daily with school work, please communicate with an administrator as soon as possible. You may be a month behind if you have not done so already.
4. **Events & Activities-** Little has changed with these activities at this point. Spring sports have been cancelled, but we are still committed to our school activities if we are able. Members of administration recently met with the senior class officers to hear their thoughts and ideas. The Class of 2020 should be proud of their leadership. We will communicate with our stakeholders as we get closer to deadlines and learn more about distancing guidelines.

5. **Providing & Distributing Devices-** For almost a month we have been communicating to try and secure devices for students and families. Please understand that if you are only reaching out now with an issue, we will help if we can. However, we will need to move forward in the very near future.
6. **Locker & Desk Cleanout-** We will be reaching out soon with a procedure to retrieve wanted items from lockers or desks. Specific times and dates will be determined. We will be doing this prior to the end of the school year, so we may begin a thorough cleaning process. Principals will contact you with details. Procedures are also being developed for the return of books and devices at the end of the school year.
7. **Classroom Environment & Acceptable Use Policy-** We ask that while students are attending a virtual session with staff and other students, we respect each other and ensure the environment is school appropriate. Also, all students and families should be aware of the acceptable use policy and Chromebook policy related to the appropriate use of technology.

The success of our students and our educational program are contingent upon the commitment of our entire community. Students, families, faculty, staff and administrators must work tirelessly to make this time beneficial. Communicate with us on your needs. If you need more tutorials or educational resources, reach out to your teachers. They are dedicated to challenging you if that is what you need. If you are struggling with organization or having conflicts, contact your school guidance counselors and/or administrators for support. As always please reach out to me at any time at rkinder@tamaqua.k12.pa.us. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Raymond J. Kinder
Superintendent, TASD