



# Addison Northwest

SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADDISON | FERRISBURGH | PANTON | VERGENNES | WALTHAM

March 26, 2020

Dear ANWSD Parents and Guardians,

We are nearing the end of our first week of school closure and despite the stress and challenges, we continue to receive positive messages about the learning resources provided for students, the strong communication shared throughout this experience, and the meal services provided each day. Thank you for your feedback.

On Tuesday, Governor Scott issued Addendum 6 to his Executive Order which puts in place a "[Stay Home, Stay Safe](#)" order which directs all non-essential businesses and non-profits to cease in-person operations. This order will be effective March 25, 2020, at 5 p.m., and will last until April 15, 2020. Secretary French further clarified that the extension would continue for schools through the end of the week of April 13, and stated the following implications on essential functions through the Governor's orders:

- **Student Meals** - Schools will continue feeding students, without interruption, on our weekday schedule. *(This week we have served about 650-700 meals daily on average!)*
- **Child Care for Essential Persons** - Child care for essential persons is an essential service under Addendum 6, and will continue in collaboration with our local private providers. If you are an essential person in need of childcare during this interim period please reach out through [the following survey link](#).
- **Continuity of Learning** - School districts will begin planning for the extended period of school closure. This means teachers will reach out with additional materials to continue beyond the original two week period with the goal of providing for new learning. Teachers will begin planning for this learning period at the inservice day, Friday, March 27th.

We know that internet access may be an issue for our families. Please reach out to your child's principal if this is an issue for you. We are learning about resources that are available to families to help support services due to poor connectivity or financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. [The Department of Public Service](#) is collecting information and resources on the availability of Internet and telecommunications services during this emergency. This webpage will include information about what [cable](#), [telephone](#), and [mobile carriers](#) are doing to assist consumers and places where consumers can find internet access. The PSD has developed [a map of libraries, local and state buildings, and schools](#) offering free, open Wi-Fi internet access.

Finally, I wanted to communicate more about the evolving nature of Vermont's and ANWSD's response to the public health crisis. Due to the increase in the number of positive cases, the Vermont Department of Health is no longer reaching out to close contacts of those who test positive, so the responsibility is up to each individual to take action to reduce the spread and communicate as they see fit. We have been made aware of a positive COVID-19 case within our school community on Wednesday, March 25. This will not be the only case and we may not know when or if others also test positive. As an educational institution bound by HIPPA, we are not in a position to notify our communities with specificity about who has tested positive, as this would violate the legal rights of the individual. As word may spread about those who have tested positive, please keep in mind the impact on the individual of sharing such information. Health Department Officials advise you to monitor yourself and your child(ren) for symptoms of COVID-19 and call your health provider should you develop coughing, fever, or shortness of breath. Further information on testing can be found at the Vermont Department of Health website [here](#).

Thank you again for all your support. I know how difficult this has been for everyone, We will get through this together and look forward to the time when we can be reunited as a school community.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Soule".

Sheila Soule  
ANSWD Superintendent of Schools