LIMESTONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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March 16, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

As you know, Aroostook County school are **closed through March 27** due to the Coronavirus threat our country is facing. At that time, local districts, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Maine CDC and DOE, will reevaluate the situation going forward. In the meantime, teachers and administration here at LCS have been busy since last week preparing for "distance learning" for all of our students.

What exactly is distance learning? In all honestly, it's a question educators across the country are asking. But for us, it will be a combination of printed materials, books, and on-line learning. Teachers are preparing both options for students and families, depending on the subject area and age level. This is new territory for everyone, so we ask for your patience and understanding during this challenging time. But, rest assured, we still plan to deliver the best quality education possible despite the barriers, keeping the health and safety of everyone in our community as the priority. As parents, our teachers will work with you and be available at certain times of the day, as it will be your responsibility ensure that your child is dedicating ample time for education during the shutdown.

On Wednesday, March 18, the school will be open between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. for each family to send one adult representative to the school and collect your child's personal belongings, any medication, and all materials for distance learning, including class packets and materials, books, and electronic device and charger. The device will need to be signed for by a parent. Staff will also be here to answer any questions you may have. Our school nurse and social worker will also be available. It is **critical** that we get this "distance learning" material to your child.

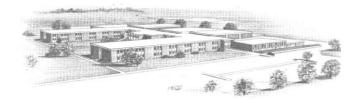
In order to be respectful of "social distancing," we are asking that each family call and make an appointment with Heidi in the office to avoid too many people in the building at once. She will be available by phone between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Tuesday for appointment scheduling. With MSSM sending their students home on Tuesday, the school itself will be

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undergoing a "deep cleaning" and disinfecting later this week. During this shutdown, this building will not be regularly available to the public.

Plans are also underway to continue with our school lunch program. More information on that will be available on Wednesday. It will also be posted on our school Facebook page and website.

Obviously, I wish I was not writing this letter. But, without a doubt, the world we live in has changed over the past week, and we, as educators and parents, need to change with it. None of us know what the next days, weeks and months will hold, but regardless, with your help and support, we will keep up with the quality education that our students deserve.

If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact me by e-mail or phone. I will continue to keep the community updated as the situation changes. We hope to see someone from your family on Wednesday so your child's education can continue.

Sincerely,

Ben Lothrop, LCS principal