



# Kewaskum School District

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*The Kewaskum Community Schools ignite a passion for learning.*

June 1, 2020

Senator Duey Stroebel  
Room 18 South  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Tim Ramthun  
Room 409 North  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Warm Greetings from the Kewaskum School District,

I wanted to let you know what staff and students in the Kewaskum School District have been able to do during the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent school closures as we would like to include you in celebrating the hard work of our staff during these unprecedented times.

We continued to serve breakfast and lunch to all students in our district (public and private) 18 years of age and under. To date we have served approximately 3300 Breakfasts and 3300 Lunches per week, which reaches approximately 660 children. We are closing in on 60,000 meals being prepared and distributed. Food service staff report to work each day to prepare the food and make it ready for curbside pick-up four days per week. They receive a variety of food, hot and cold, each week that still meets all the guidelines for a reimbursable meal. Every hot item is packaged and placed with a label on how to prepare it. This service will continue through June 25, 2020.

Our Pupil Services team of director, counselors and school psychologists have provided parents with weekly guidelines and tips on how to traverse the various mental health issues that exist and persist during this time. We have worked with approximately 285 students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) and 504 services to create plans to support remote learning experiences. In some situations, this has meant 1:1 and small group instruction for students. In other situations, it has been collaboration with families to support students access to virtual/distance education. The impact of the closure due to the ongoing public emergency will need to be assessed upon the end of the closure which will impact next steps. Our district completed approximately 90 IEP Team Meetings and 12 evaluations throughout the closure.

Plans were put in place before schools were closed and information communicated to families regarding handwashing practices and health safety awareness and prevention. Pandemic planning and re-integration plans to maintain the safety and health of students and staff are being developed with consideration for PPE and those students/staff who are high-risk.

We have not furloughed or laid off a single employee. As the largest employer in Kewaskum, we have many staff who contribute to the local economy. Our staff immediately went from in person teaching on March 13 to

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Kewaskum Elementary, 1415 Bilgo Lane, PO Box 127, Kewaskum, WI 53040-0127 • Farmington Elementary, 8736 Boltonville Road, Kewaskum, WI 53040  
i4Learning Community School, 5760 Mohawk Road, Campbellsport, WI 53010 • Kewaskum Middle, 1676 Reigle Drive, PO Box 432, Kewaskum, WI 53040-0432  
Kewaskum High, 1510 Bilgo Lane, PO Box 426, Kewaskum, WI 53040-0426 • District Office, 1455 School Street, PO Box 37, Kewaskum, WI 53040-0037

virtual/distance learning on March 23. The transition, though unexpected, has been successful. Staff have used a variety of platforms to provide access to learning including: Google Classroom, IXL, Flipgrid, Padlet, SeeSaw, Zoom, Google Hangout, PlayPosit, Education Galaxy, PearDeck, ScreenCastify, EdPuzzle, Listenwise, and Newsela.

Additionally, staff were regularly found seeking out professional development relevant to the changes in educating students virtually. Teachers were stepping in to help one another as they set up virtual classrooms in a few short days. Technology mentors and instructional coaches stepped in to support teachers throughout the change from in-person to distance/virtual learning. Our paraprofessionals are taking online courses to improve their skill set.

Due to the challenges of internet access in our rural community we have had to work with families who do not have internet access. Therefore, our staff prepared hardcopy learning for over 300 students every two weeks during the school closure.

Our technology staff, made up of two individuals, prepared devices for all families who requested it, 162 devices handed out to K-5 students, 97 devices to 6-8 students and 75 devices to 9-12 students.

Weekly district level communication continued with all parents as we worked to ensure our families and the community were informed of the ongoing changes. Our COVID-19 page created on the website has been a “one stop shop” for these communications. Staycation ideas were shared with parents during Spring Break week. Emails, Facebook and website updates were the main areas of distribution.

During the closure, teachers worked to meet the needs of students in a variety of ways. As outlined above, staff virtually met with small groups, large groups, and individual students to help them with their work. Additionally, they also attended weekly staff meetings and department meetings. Staff also took time to reach out to families when their student was not active in learning. We are proud of the staff for offering weekly check in meetings with their home base to check on the well being of students. These meetings offered staff a chance to monitor the mental health of our students. Additionally, we have received very positive feedback from our parents about the care and dedication of our staff during this crisis.

I am proud of the changes our staff had to make in a very short-time with little direction. I am proud of the way our staff has continued, despite being socially distant, to meet the many needs of the children and families of the Kewaskum School District. We remain committed to serving the students and making changes “on a dime” to ensure we are following the most relevant recommendations of federal, state and local officials.

Sincerely,



James Smasal  
District Administrator