

TAFT EARLY LEARNING CENTER

16 Granite Street · Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569

Phone 508-278-8643



TAFT UPDATE - 3/17

Thank you all for your patience and support during these unprecedented times. As you can imagine, these past few days have been challenging. We are working toward better solutions that will support our students, staff, and families during this time - as part of one of our many calls with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, one of the points made was providing resources for students to remain engaged in learning. Among other things, this is one of the many things we have begun addressing with our staff.

All teacher leaders participated in a conference call today to outline some possible expectations for the next couple of weeks, both with respect to resources for parents and families for the purpose of preventing regression and to provide opportunities for your child to remain engaged. Our hope is to have resources available to families by Thursday.

Consistency is critical in times like these, especially for our little ones. Please speak with your families to talk about continuing routines and putting predictable schedules in place. Though not the same as attending school, developing a schedule that includes experiences around academics, well balanced meals, physical movement, and rest are important.

I know that this is an uncertain time for all of us as educators, parents, spouses, and as citizens of the world. I also know that there are many questions that you have, both personally and professionally. I appreciate your support and patience as we continue to roll out our plans during this unprecedented situation. Please feel free to call or email, jbelleville@uxbridge.k12.ma.us. I will continue to provide you with information as I receive it.

Stay healthy!

Principal Bellville

This week at Taft:

- Taft closed for students through April 6th
- Building closed to the public
- Meal-to-go pick up Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

Important Telephone Numbers

Taft Early Learning Center

Main Office - Telephone	508-278-8643- press 1
Pre K Director	508-278-8643- press 2

Parent Teacher Conferences/IEP meetings:

We are currently in the process of determining methods to potentially hold conferences, or conversations, such as IEP meetings, to potentially occur with virtual and/or telephone support. We will share the outcomes of our work as soon as possible.

Meals-to-go (See attached flyer):

The Uxbridge Public Schools Food Service Department is committed to providing breakfast and lunch meals-to-go for students who qualify for Free and Reduced meals during this district wide school closure. We recognize that these may be difficult times for families.

Pick up for all school meals will be at our central location at **TAFT EARLY LEARNING CENTER**. Distribution will be set up outside the cafeteria doors on the sidewalk. Families are asked to enter the drive-up/pick-up line and pull up to the curb with the cafeteria doors on your right side. We ask that everyone remain in their vehicles while our staff distributes meals.

Meals will be distributed the following days from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday, March 17th	Monday, March 23rd
Wednesday, March 18th	Wednesday, March 25th
Friday, March 20th	Friday, March 27th

I want to reiterate some of the information Dr. Tiano shared:

What we know:

- UPS is closed for students through April 6th
- Uxbridge Board of Health voted to close our schools as a preemptive measure to reduce large gatherings and to slow down the spread of the coronavirus

The Uxbridge Public Schools insures equal employment and educational opportunities for its employees and students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation in compliance with Title VI, Title IX, section 504/ADA and G.L. c 151b and 157c.

- There are no known cases of coronavirus in Uxbridge
- Breakfast and lunches will be made and provided for free and reduced students (*Please see attachment*)
- We will continue collaboration with our local Board of Health and Emergency Management team, as well, as state and federal health and education offices to assess the continued impact of this virus on our ability to open and operate our schools
- From DESE Commissioner Riley's Office:
 - School districts are only responsible for making up student days to satisfy the 180 day requirement or until the 185th on our district calendar. Having had 3 snow days in November/December, we have 2 more to make up before the 185th. Therefore, the last day of school for students is June 23rd.
 - Accountability measures such as MCAS are being addressed both at the federal and state levels in terms of implementation and actual accountability.
 - During school closures, there is no expectation of meeting learning requirements due to the inequity in which schools or districts have the capacity
 - Schools provide opportunities for families to support learning continuity for children during this time away from school and for potential additional timeframes

What we are working on:

- Developing strategies for the continuity of learning during this period of absence and to accommodate anything that could extend beyond April 6th
- Ensuring open and timely communication with staff, students, families, and community

What we do not know:

- The impact of these social distancing measures on overall trends for COVID-19, from a local, state, and national level
- The impact of a school closure of this length in terms of learning regression
- How the Commonwealth will plan to address accountability measures, and if there will be an impact to College Board, PLTW, AP testing or other end-of-course assessments

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