Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please see the attached short video:  https://video.ibm.com/channel/ZaDmDsSVctV.

I hope this message finds you and your family well. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges across the Commonwealth. As you know, our education system has been directly impacted, and the governor has mandated that all school districts must remain closed at least through April 6, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 response efforts. We do not yet know if the state mandated closure will be extended beyond April 6 to save lives and stop the spread.

The Central Dauphin School District passionately believes that we must continue to educate our students during this challenging time. We have been working as a team dedicated to getting distance learning up and running in order to provide student instruction during the state-mandated closure. This is a very important initiative for the District and is a complex one given the large size and diverse socioeconomic make-up of the District.

After much discussion and consideration, we have identified Google Classroom and Canvas as two of the main online platforms which will best serve our District. Interactive platforms give teachers the means to constructively engage with students in a meaningful way and will allow our teachers to create a digital learning environment that meets the students’ educational needs. The building principals have reported that many teachers are already successfully using Canvas and Google Classroom, and that students are comfortable with it. We believe that Canvas and Google Classroom will provide the smoothest transition to the distance learning program that has now become necessary.

The District has obtained Chromebook laptop computers, which will be loaned to students who would not otherwise have access to a device necessary to participate in online learning. These laptops will be distributed to all families who, on our recent survey, indicated the need for one. If your family does not otherwise have access to a device on which your child could complete schoolwork, please let your building principal know so that we can loan you a computer as soon as possible.

After providing training opportunities for teachers on distance learning beginning the week of March 30th, it is our goal to begin a rollout of online classes for students beginning April 6th with an official launch a week later.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has created much uncertainty, please know that the Central Dauphin School District is committed to your child’s education. We are confident that our new distance learning program will allow us to deliver on this commitment. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the success of your student.

Take care and be safe,

Norm

*Norman J. Miller, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Central Dauphin School District*