



THOMAS ANDERSON
SUPERINTENDENT

NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PAUL RODRIGUES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
455 COUNTY STREET
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 02740
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(508) 997-4511

"We are committed to developing a community of learners who are academically proficient, demonstrate strong character and exhibit self-confidence."

KAREN A. TREADUP
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

ANDREW O'LEARY
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT OF
FINANCE & OPERATIONS

HEATHER EMSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN CAPITAL SERVICES

JENNIFER FERLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS

SANDRA FORD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION & STUDENT SERVICES

SONIA WALMSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL
ACCESS & PATHWAY

April 1, 2020

Dear New Bedford Public Schools Families:

We know that this continues to be a very stressful time as all Massachusetts schools are closed at least until May 4, 2020. We are working to support one another to the extent possible. Over the past few weeks, all staff has been transitioning to remote learning. We define remote learning as when students are provided opportunities to demonstrate learning while not in the traditional classroom setting receiving direct instruction from a teacher. Students engage with materials including academic packets, books, online programs, video lessons and more.

The transition to a remote learning environment, especially on short notice and in challenging circumstances, can take some adjustment for everyone. Our New Bedford Public Schools' team has been using a variety of methods to keep students involved in learning. Although, we are using remote learning tools and instructional materials, I do not expect remote learning to replicate the traditional school day.

Aligned with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommendations, New Bedford Public Schools' Remote Learning focuses on ALL students being:

- Engaged in remote learning for at least 3 hours each day (almost ½ their regular school day)
- Supported to reinforce skills in which they have already been exposed
- Provided the opportunity to connect with educators, multiple times per week
- Supported to reduce the risk of learning loss
- Helped to access multiple hours of academic content per day
- Helped to apply and deepen their skills

New Bedford Public Schools Remote Learning encompasses:

- **Structured daily routines** include time on learning and time for breaks
 - Lunch and recess are at the same time each day
- **All students are expected** to do some self-guided work combined with the support they will receive from their teachers

Additional resources are available on the [New Bedford Public Schools](http://www.newbedfordpublicschools.org) website. Again, we expect students to spend at least three hours per day engaged in remote learning, which can be broken down in the following way:

Subject	Suggested Time (K-5)	Suggested Time (6 – 12)
ELA/Literacy/Writing	20 minutes	30 minutes
Math	20 minutes	30 minutes
Science	20 minutes	30 minutes
Social Studies	20 minutes	30 minutes
Physical Activities	20 minutes	30 minutes
Specials/Elective	20 minutes	30 minutes
Independent Reading	20 Minutes	30 Minutes

We all benefit from having structure and routine, and that will help students maximize their varied experiences based on their individual learning styles. We recommend you use the resources available to you; your child's teacher and the school website are where you can find the resources that help the most. [Click here to see more on structuring your day](#)

Our priority is the well-being of our students during this time of uncertainty. A structured day with routines will create a sense of normalcy in their lives and help to reduce anxiety and fear. If you have any questions or need assistance during this time, please reach out to your child's school. Please use this link [Update email and phone number here](#) to update your contact information. Stay on top of the latest information to help us all stay safe: [Information to help us stay safe](#)

Opportunities to learn are all around us. So, remember, meaningful learning can take place anywhere, even when we are not expecting it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent

