



Pocono Mountain School District

PO Box 200 • Swiftwater, PA 18370-0200 • 570-839-7121

March 29, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to address supports and services that will be provided to students identified as Mentally Gifted during Governor Tom Wolf's mandated school closure as a result of the health crisis of COVID-19. Pocono Mountain administrators have been working diligently to make a good faith effort to develop a *Continuity of Education Plan* for all students as recommended by the Department of Education.

This interim plan of enrichment and review for all students through on-line extended learning opportunities will begin on April 6, 2020. It will be implemented during the period of the mandated school closure in response to declaration of a global pandemic. For students identified as Mentally Gifted under 22 Pa. Code § 16.32, this plan will include a continuity of specially designed instruction that is reasonable, flexible, accessible, and appropriate. This specially designed instruction will be provided in subjects for which your child participates in the general curriculum as outlined in his or her current GIEP to the maximum extent possible under the limitations and circumstances of the school closure due to a national health emergency.

In the interim, please visit the PMSD website at www.pmsd.org for a number of resources in a variety of subject areas for all students. In addition, please access the link for resources for students who are Mentally Gifted specific to your child's needs academically and emotionally. You will also find updated information to address COVID-19 as it relates to the current state of education.

You will be contacted by your child's case manager for further guidance and assistance to address on-line or virtual extended learning opportunities. You are a vital member of the GIEP team, and your input will be critical to your child's success.

If your child did not receive a chrome book and/or needs technical assistance, including access to the internet, please contact me at mgustafson@pmsd.org.

Finally, the health, safety and welfare of all students is our utmost concern. We understand the challenges you are facing in these uncertain times so on-going home/school communication is extremely important now more than ever. We are looking forward to working with you as we address your child's needs under very difficult and uncertain circumstances.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Beth Gustafson
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education