March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I extend my thanks to everyone for their support and cooperation during this evolving and challenging time. Given the extraordinary circumstances that we currently face as the coronavirus pandemic grows, the Shrewsbury Borough School will be closed until further notice.

Starting Monday, March 16th, 2020, we will transition to our Virtual Learning Plan. Although our students will not be attending school in person during these virtual, home instruction sessions, these days will count towards our district obligation to provide, at a minimum, one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction to all of our students as mandated by the NJ Department of Education.

All after-school activities, extracurricular clubs, and middle school sports are suspended for the present time. Any and all parent meetings that were scheduled are suspended until further notice.

All teachers have posted virtual learning assignments and materials for students on their teacher pages and/or Google classrooms.

Our administration, support staff, custodians and maintenance employees will report to school here at SBS during this closure and will be able to assist you.

It is important that you know that we currently have no known cases of coronavirus (COVID 19), we have no “presumptive positive” cases of COVID 19, and there are no known “close contact” concerns. Currently, the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission considers all of our students and community to be at a low risk for acquiring COVID 19.

Limiting the impact of COVID-19 will require a shared response from everyone. We will continue to provide updates and information. Families should continue to consult these resources for information and advice:

- NJ Department of Health
- CDC
- NJDOH COVID-19 Hotline: 1-800-222-1222
As a reminder, please use these simple but best practices to minimize the spread of germs in your house and between your family members:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow
- Students and employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are advised to stay home and not come to work/school

While young people are not in a “high risk” group for COVID 19, they should refrain from congregating outside of school. Parents and students should follow the CDC guidelines, which emphasize “social distancing,” as a means to prevent further contact with people who could be infected or who could infect you or your family members. These heightened measures are important to contain the spread of COVID 19 in our local community and beyond. Closing schools will only have the desired impact if everyone follows through on actions to slow the spread of COVID 19.

Please see the letter attached from the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission #1. Also, please see attached very important information from the NJ Department of Health and Center for Disease Control.

Moving forward, we will continue to provide updates as relevant information becomes available. Don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns about the Virtual Learning Plan or other school-related issues. All the best to everyone. Stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

Brent MacConnell
Superintendent