



ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-222-5000 · 410-222-5500 (TDD) | www.aacps.org

April 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You and your loved ones remain in our thoughts as we continue to traverse this Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. Anne Arundel County Public Schools' Department of Special Education has continuously worked with the Maryland State Department of Education and Special Education leaders throughout Maryland and the nation to ensure that we are continuing to meet the needs of our students with special needs in this current situation.

Our teaching and related staff returned to duty this past week. They have been very busy learning new tools and processing new strategies to enable them to interact meaningfully with you and your child(ren). We have been constantly reminded of the passion that our staff have for working with students with special needs. A couple of statements that show their enthusiasm for tackling this new way of doing business:

“As a person who has been doing this for a while, I love that in this new situation my eyes have been opened up to so many awesome online resources for us and families. We don't always have the time to research new things that are being developing and changing daily. At the end of all this craziness we will all be better communicators and have enhanced our strategies to use with students!”

“The learning curve is steep, but I am being supported from many directions. My students are showing so much flexibility – as I have begun reaching out to parents it has been so wonderful to interact face-to-face with my students. They never cease to amaze me. I am learning so much and will be a better teacher for it.”

Teachers are in the process of collaborating with everyone that serves your child and preparing to connect with you to develop the Individualized Continuity of Learning Plan that will serve as an amendment to the IFSP/IEP until schools reconvene. If you have not yet heard from your child's case manager, you will soon. We appreciate your patience and grace as we gear up for this new way of serving our students.

Due to the volume of meals being served at our meal locations, we will no longer be able to distribute free meals to students who are not physically present at the sites as was described in last week's letter. Please be sure to have your child with you as originally directed; children do not need to get out of the car to receive a meal. For the very small number of families with students who are identified as being highly fragile with autoimmune compromise, we have contacted them directly. If you feel that your child is in this category and you did not receive a direct email or phone call, please contact me at bpedrick@aacps.org.

You will hear more from us in the coming days regarding the delivery of special education services as decisions are made, procedures agreed upon, and materials/practices are prepared and ready to be implemented. Please know that our concern for the safety of your children and the impact of this time away from school remain our highest priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobbi Pedrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bobbi Pedrick
Director of Special Education
Anne Arundel County Public Schools

BP/bm