



March 25, 2020

Dear TCPS Community:

We all have been navigating uncharted territory as our county, state, and nation has grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic. This time of great uncertainty has required my patience, knowing that the community longs for answers I have not been able to provide. This morning during the Governor's Press Conference, we were notified by Dr. Karen Salmon, Maryland State Superintendent, that all school buildings will be closed through April 24th, 2020, with the expectation for continuity of learning to continue for students during this time.

Fortunately, our team has been preparing for this eventuality with limited 12 month staff. Our staff is confident we can provide continuity of learning for all students in TCPS now that we are able to engage our teachers in the process. We will solidify these plans to ensure that our expectations are aligned with the Maryland State Department of Education's guidance.

We will begin to share our refined plan for this extended school closure with our families and staff next week.

The TCPS team of leaders is made up of extremely dedicated, talented and caring individuals. They will continue to work tirelessly to implement and update our action plan for COVID-19 to meet the challenges of new mandates that come from the state. Not only is TCPS poised to support our students' academic needs through distance learning and alternative learning materials, we will also continue to be responsive to our students' needs for meals while school buildings are closed.

The people of Talbot County are resilient, resourceful, and caring. These are qualities that will ensure success in our collaborative community effort to overcome this pandemic. It is important that we adhere to the mandates and recommendations coming from our state and national governments. We must continue to support each other's health, safety and well-being by following preventive measures such as social distancing, proper hand-washing, and staying home when sick, as the CDC and our trusted state and local health partners have advised.

During this time, communication is critically important. Please know that we will strive to keep our community informed as the situation evolves. Navigating uncharted territory requires tenacity, calm, and flexibility. I am proud of the TCPS leaders and staff who regularly exemplify these qualities and are doing so even more during this pandemic. Please know you can count on the TCPS team to do whatever it takes to see us through this journey in the best interests of our children.

Kelly L. Griffith Ed.D.  
Superintendent