District transitions to continuous learning

With Governor Jay Inslee closing schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, Quincy School District has been forced to adapt or lose valuable teaching time for students across the district.

The district has already launched continuous learning throughout schools in a variety of ways, including paper packets and workbooks in the middle and elementary schools, said Alicen Gaytley, the district director of teaching and learning.

While many students are working from paper packets and workbooks at the moment, online learning is set to begin on May 4, Gaytley said. Over the last three weeks, the district has distributed chromebook computers and WiFi hotspots to students at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels.

Jumping into online learning in early May won’t be an easy task, according to Gaytley, adding that teachers haven’t had the training with the technology and online instruction. However, teachers and instructional coaches have had weekly meetings deciding the most essential and highest priority lessons for the remainder of the school year.

“That takes a lot of collaboration to figure out what that is,” Gaytley said. “I’m really excited to see what our teachers come up with.”

With classes now taking place at home, student’s class time is much shorter than a regular school day. Guidance from the state calls for kindergarteners and first graders to have 45 minutes per day of focused classwork; 60 minutes for second and third graders focusing on one subject per day; and 90 minutes for fourth and fifth graders focusing on one class per day. Middle school students are asked for two-and-a-half hours per day, alternating between English language arts, and math and science. High school students are asked three hours per day, checking into two classes per day.

Even with less class time, the quality of the education won’t drop off, Gaytley said, adding that the moments students share with teachers will be maximized.

“Quantity is going to be less, but the quality will be very good because the staff will really be able to innovate,” Gaytley said.

The district’s transition and figuring out how classes will proceed has been a challenge, but Gaytley also recognized the social and emotional changes to life during this pandemic and it’s challenges.

“Teachers and students, they miss each other and the relationships they have at school,” Gaytley said. “People love to learn. I bet our students are realizing that at home.”
I recently watched a new YouTube show called Some Good News (SGN). The purpose of the show is to simply show the good in the world and it is amazing how many good news stories there are. In times like these, it is easy to feel despair when all you hear on the news and see on social media is the negative messages around the world. In this edition of the communicator we are focusing on all the good happening right here in our community and am proud that the Quincy Valley has more than its share of good news.

A community group of more than 30 Quincy Valley residents and leaders meet weekly to provide support to the hospital, grocery stores, the local schools, the food bank and Serve Quincy Valley. Convened by Harriet Weber, Lisa Karstetter, Julia Putnam and Cari Mathews, this group called the COVID Response Crisis team has now transitioned to supporting local businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Quincy School District wishes to thank this community support group for stepping up in a time of great need.

Within the Quincy School District, we have a whole lot of good news too. Our food service and transportation workers have risen to the challenge to prepare and deliver more than 1,000 meals daily. We are working on a plan to extend the program to include weekend meals for students in need. At Ancient Lakes Elementary, we are providing daycare for children of hospital workers and first responders. By the time this newsletter is published, we will have distributed approximately 500 Verizon Hotspots and over 1,500 Chromebooks for students K-12. Our students in every corner of our 450 square mile district should now have the tools to participate in remote learning.

More good news can be observed by how Quincy School District Principals and teachers are leaning into some very challenging and difficult changes as they transition to remote learning. They are being asked to change the way they are conceiving of and delivering instruction to students. Our parents are showing great strength as they balance their own jobs and responsibilities while supporting their children to learn in the home.

In my message this quarter, I want to also say thank you to the senior class of 2020. I am proud of what you have accomplished so far and I can’t wait to see what you will accomplish in the future. We are very sorry that school facilities had to be closed during your most important year of school. We recognize the anxiety and feelings of loss that many of you are feeling from missing out on those last few months of your senior year. We know how important traditions are and do not minimize the impact this closure has brought. Please know that we have not forgotten about you and are working hard to figure out how we can help you feel more connected to your friends and school.

The Quincy School District cares about our students and we continue to ensure they are supported during the school closure.

**By the Numbers**

**COVID-19: QSD CARES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Learning at Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>875</strong> Chromebooks distributed to QHS, QIA &amp; QMS Students</td>
<td><strong>19,402</strong> Meals served to students from March 24-April 15</td>
<td><strong>Pre-K</strong> 30 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>710</strong> Chromebooks will be distributed to elementary schools</td>
<td><strong>1,400</strong> Avg. number of meals served daily</td>
<td><strong>Grades 4-5</strong> 90 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>300</strong> Hotspots distributed to QHS, QIA &amp; QMS Students</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Food service employees prepare meals</td>
<td><strong>Grades K-1</strong> 45 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>124</strong> Hotspots will be distributed to elementary schools</td>
<td><strong>6</strong> Transportation employees make sure meals make it to students</td>
<td><strong>Grades 6-8</strong> 20 min per class max per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>19</strong> meal bus stops</td>
<td><strong>Grades 2-3</strong> 60 min.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grades 9-12</strong> 30 min per class max per day</td>
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**See Boyd on page 3**
QSD stepping up to help community

With the closure of schools statewide for the remainder of the school year, the Quincy School District has stepped up to help students and the community in this difficult and uncertain time.

To ensure that no student goes hungry during this time, they are providing free breakfast and lunch to all children under 18 regardless if they attend a district school or not, according to the Quincy School District website. They will also serve students 19 or older if they are actively enrolled in the district.

Pick up locations include all the district’s schools. There are also three buses that deliver meals on rural routes for students who are unable to visit in-town locations. New stops may be added, said Nicole Boatright, the district food service director, adding, “The more kids, the better.”

Mary Mickelson, a food service worker saw the need for more bags to hand out the meals in because they were quickly going through their supply of paper bags. She single handedly went to local stores and got enough paper and reusable bags to get them by for the next few weeks, Boatright said.

Currently the district serves about 1000-1400 meals a day between the school pick up locations and the bus drop off route. With around 3000 kids enrolled in the district, that is only a third or less of the kids they hope to serve.

“We signed up to feed kids and it’s our time to shine. To show people what we do and that we are essential,” Boatright said.

Trevor Sill, a librarian and data coach at Quincy Middle School, along with the Career and Technical Education Department at the middle and high school, were contacted by district leadership to help the Quincy Community Health Center. The center had reached out to the district saying they were struggling to get much needed face shields.

Sill researched the idea to create the face shields with a 3-D printer. After testing three different models of the face shields, Sill and the health center settled on a design where the headband was made from plastic created by the 3-D printer, and the face covering from a letter-sized plastic cover sheet that only needed to be modified by creating holes from a three-hole punch. After the holes are made to the cover sheet, it is easily attached to the plastic headband; a process that takes under 30 seconds to put together. In total, nearly 100 face shields were donated.

April is National Poetry Month and Michele Fancher thought it would be fun for all the middle school students to create their own free verse poems. “We want our students and their families to know that we care about how they are feeling and what they are going through,” Fancher said. In the poems that they have received back so far, the kids have been very open and honest, Fancher said.

Fancher also mentioned that this activity is great for students who are more introverted and shy. The poems being free verse, it takes a lot of stress away from students because they don’t have to worry about following any specific guidelines or grammar rules. “We just wanted the kids to have an opportunity to speak out and share in a way that can be creative and not restrictive,” Fancher said.

On top of all these amazing things the district is doing, they are also providing childcare for the first responders and medical professionals so they can continue to provide necessary services to the community without the stress of worry that comes from arranging care for their children.

Dear QHS Class of 2020,

Our entire community sympathizes with you during this unusual year in which so many of the treasured senior year activities have been impacted by this national pandemic. Ensuring that students graduate on time and that we adequately celebrate the milestone of high school completion, remain high priorities for all of us. Advisory teachers will be working to inform seniors of what is required for meeting any remaining graduation requirements and we have a committee that is working on contingency plans, for how we will commemorate your high school completion while respecting any potential guidelines that may come from the governor’s office.

We are looking at a variety of options for the graduation ceremony ranging from a Class of 2020 weekend with a traditional graduation ceremony and prom held in the summer, to a virtual ceremony, or a graduation parade. We will be seeking feedback from students and families through your online advisory classes, about the potential options in the weeks ahead but we are wanting to wait for additional guidance from the governor’s office which is expected May 4th before we go too far in the planning. This will give us a much clearer idea of what our real options are and give us the most flexibility in making the choice that best fits the desires of our student body.

In the meantime, I urge you all to end the year strong by fully engaging in the online learning opportunities your teachers are providing as you await additional details on our end of the year plans. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and resilience in this difficult period. It is unfortunate that this has happened this year. But the class of 2020 is up to the challenge and will undoubtedly persevere.

Sincerely,

Marcus J. Pimbleton
Principal
Thank you to all of the healthcare professionals and first responders across the nation for your service and dedication during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We especially want to recognize all of our former Quincy graduates who are out their keeping us safe and healthy! You are our HOMETOWN HEROES! GO JACKS!

Carissa Lesko
Class of 2008
Registered Nurse in the Progressive Care Unit at Central WA Hospital, Wenatchee, WA

Danielle Hodge
Class of 2010
Critical Care Transport Nurse in the Seattle area and Nurse at Quincy Valley Medical Center, Quincy, WA

Debra Black
Class of 1983
Home Health Certified Nursing Assistant

Marissa Villela
Class of 1996
Chief Nursing Officer at Quincy Valley Medical Center, Quincy, WA

Colby Petersen
Class of 1991
Physician Assistant in the ER at Utah Dixie Regional Hospital, St. George, Utah

Sherri (Stacy) Taft
Class of 2002
Assistant Executive Director at Prestige Senior Living at Colonial Vista, Wenatchee, WA

Katrina Spence
Class of 2002
Paramedic and EMS for Protection-1 & Radiologic Technologist at Quincy Valley Medical Center, Quincy, WA

Melissa (Brantner) McDowell
Class of 1999
Registered Nurse & Charge Nurse at Central Washington Hospital, Progressive Care Unit, Wenatchee, WA

Erin (Cedergreen) Woods
Class of 2001
Charge Nurse in the pediatric ICU at Seattle Children’s Hospital, Seattle, WA

Veronica Gonzalez
Class of 1996
Radiology Department Manager at Quincy Valley Medical Center, Quincy, WA

Scott Alexander
Class of 1999
Intensive Care Unit Nurse at Tacoma General Hospital, Tacoma, WA

Rachell “Woods” Dannah
Class of 1999
Registered Nurse at Billings Clinic Hospital, Billings, MT

Jessica Esparza
Class of 2011
Intensive Care Unit Nurse in Wenatchee, WA

Daniel Almaraz Jr.
Class of 2003
Emergency Medical Technician at Swedish Medical Center - First Hill Campus, Seattle, WA

Stormy Baughman
Class of 2004
Deputy Sheriff for Grant County

Lupe Cortes
Class of 2009
Registered Nurse at Quincy Valley Medical Center, Quincy, WA

Laura Becerra
Class of 2010
Nurse in Grant County

DeDe Brown
Class of 1992
Volunteer Firefighter

Patrick Kunkel
Class of 2007
Internal Medicine Resident in Spokane, WA

Blanca Quintero Hernandez
Class of 2019
Certified Phlebotomist at Quincy Community Health Center, Quincy, WA

Dayanira Banesa Quintero
Class of 2015
Registered Nurse at Central Washington Hospital, Wenatchee WA

Sulema Quintero
Class of 2019
Certified Phlebotomist at Quincy Community Health Center, Quincy, WA

Maira Vanessa Hernandez
Class of 2011
Registered Nurse & Charge Nurse at the University of WA Medical Center- Montlake, Seattle

Yiadaly Cruz
Class of 2012
Medical Assistant at Moses Lake Community Health, Moses Lake, WA

Brandi Kling
Class of 2000
Nurse at Central Washington Hospital, Wenatchee WA

Claudia Díaz Zepeda
Class of 1997
Registered Nurse in Labor & Delivery unit at Astra Toppenish Hospital, Toppenish, WA

Adriana Díaz Ortiz (right)
Class of 2008
Nursing Assistant Certified at Quincy Valley Medical Center, Quincy, WA

Blanca Quintero Hernandez
Class of 2019
Medical Assistant - Certified at Quincy Community Health Center, Quincy, WA

Dayanira Banesa Quintero
Class of 2015
Registered Nurse at Central Washington Hospital, Wenatchee WA

Sulema Quintero
Class of 2019
Certified Phlebotomist at Quincy Community Health Center, Quincy, WA

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