

'In the Loop' with the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

Lew-Port continues to adapt to challenging times

BY JODEE RIORDAN
Board of Education President

We find ourselves in a strange new world, where at once everything has both slowed down and changes rapidly. We hope you find some sweetness and opportunity to connect, and find strength and solace in knowing that our teachers and administrators are dedicated to getting you and your children through this crisis. Support, in any form you need, is only a click away. We are all in this together.

Closure of all schools will continue now through Wednesday, April 15. The governor states this will be reassessed in two weeks, but based on his daily reports and current guidelines of the federal government, we are now anticipating a longer closure. Per executive order 202.4, "the provision of school meals, childcare and distance learning are considered essential services or function."

Here is what this looks like at Lewiston-Porter:

Education: Student learning will continue through what would have been our spring break, April 6-17. In order to comply with the governor's executive order 202.4 and to follow New York State Department of Education guidelines for state aid based on the 180-day requirement, we must maintain the level of teacher/student contact and learning activities through the days designated for the spring break. To that end, it is essential that students are following the instructions from their teachers through Seesaw or Google classroom. When teachers schedule check-ins through these modalities or through video conferencing, students must participate.

Food Service: Lew-Port continues to provide meals for all students under the age of 18. The grab-and-go bags consist of two meals (breakfast and lunch), as long as we have the resources



to provide for both meals. Meals are available at the Lewiston-Porter High School main entrance, Monday-Friday from 9-11 a.m.

We ask that families follow these time guidelines (when possible) to avoid crowding and traffic issues: Last names A-M 9-10 a.m.; last names N-Z 10-11 a.m. Families who do not have a way to pick up meals should email Dr. Patti Grupka (pgrupka@lew-port.com) to make arrangements to have meals delivered.

We encourage all families who have had a change in employment status to apply for the free and reduced lunch program. All students who qualify for free and reduced lunches are also eligible for the breakfast program. The application can be found on our website: Go to the home page, then menus; "Free & Reduced Lunch Application" link is in the Food Service column (to the left). Once approved, students qualify for the remainder of the school year.

Child Care: Lewiston-Porter Central School District is partnering with the Buffalo Niagara YMCA to provide free child care for all essential workers while schools are closed due to COVID-19. Please see our website (or executive order No. 202.4) for a complete list of eligible essential workers. Child care is provided

Our teachers and staff are imagining new ways to connect and brighten our sprits every day. Visit our website to be inspired!

Monday-Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., for children of eligible workers ages 3-12 at the Lewiston-Porter Primary Education Center. To register for the service, please contact the Lockport Family Branch YMCA at 434-8887 or email Brigid Dillman, office manager, at bdillman@ymcabn.org between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Looking Ahead

Let's take a moment to look ahead to next year: If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in September 2020, the first step to the kindergarten adventure is the registration process. For the first time, the Primary Education Center is offering an online registration option. Parents may register children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2020, online at www.lew-port.com, on the new student registration page, and at a link on the Primary Education Center home page.

Parents will need to upload the following information: Student proof of age, original birth certificate and/or passport, parent photo identification, driver's license and/or passport, proof of residency and record of immunizations. Please visit the website for full registration details.

Stay well and stay strong, Lewiston-Porter. Our teachers and staff are imagining new ways to connect and brighten our sprits every day. Visit our website to be inspired!

Follow Superintendent Paul Casseri's updates (via email and all communication channels) to stay "In the Loop" on a daily basis; and if you or your family is in need, please reach out.

We will get through this together.

Cuomo extends school closures statewide for additional two weeks, until April 15

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Friday announced all schools in New York state must remain closed for an additional two weeks, until April 15, to ensure consistency and uniformity across the state in instructional time for this extraordinary school year. Schools will be required to continue child care, meal and distance learning programs, and the state will extend the 180-day waiver to April 15.

The directive contained in Executive Order 202.4 related to the closure of schools statewide shall hereafter be modified to provide that all schools shall remain closed until April 15, 2020, at which time the continued closure shall be re-evaluated. No school shall be subject to a diminution in school aid due to failure to meet the 180-day in session requirement as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, provided their closure does not extend beyond the term set forth herein. School districts must continue plans for alternative instructional options, distribution and availability of meals, and child care, with an emphasis on serving children of essential workers, and continue to first use any vacation or snow days remaining.

mitted to ensuring our more than 29 million customers maintain reliable access to the online resources and information they want and need."

To "ease the strain in this challenging time," on March 16, Charter committed to the following for 60 days:

- Charter is offering free Spectrum internet and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students, and now educators, who do not already have a Spectrum Internet subscription.

- Charter continues to offer Spectrum Internet Assist, a high-speed broadband program available to eligible low-income households that delivers speeds of 30 Mbps.

- Charter has opened its Wi-Fi hotspots across our footprint for public use.

- Spectrum does not have data caps or hidden fees.

- Spectrum will not terminate service for residential or small business customers who face difficult economic circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Similarly, Charter will not charge late fees for those customers facing difficult economic circumstances related to the pandemic.

- Spectrum News has opened its websites to ensure people have access to news and information.

- Charter has also donated air-time to run 1,000 COVID-19 public service announcement (PSA) spots per week, including on all Spectrum News Networks, for four weeks to its full footprint of 16 million video subscribers, and on digital video and streaming apps. Additionally, Charter will run PSAs for the American Red Cross and other relief organizations.

"As the country works collaboratively to contain this pandemic, broadband internet access will be increasingly essential to ensure that people across the country are able to learn and work remotely, that businesses can continue to serve customers, and Americans stay connected and engaged with family and friends.

"Charter's advanced communications network will ensure our customers - including government offices, first responders, health care facilities, businesses and the news media - across 41 states maintain the connectivity they rely on to help flatten the curve and protect the country."

Lewiston-Porter Sentinel Easter coloring contest form

Parents: If your child doesn't have access to the Easter coloring contest found in our newspaper, or if you are looking for an additional entry form, please feel free to download the poster on The Sentinel website, www.wnypapers.com.

If your child is entering the contest, please try and submit a copy on 11-by-17-inch paper, if possible.

And, if you're just bored and like to color, well, have at it - though, sorry parents, you're not eligible to win a prize!

Please support our sponsors, and have a happy Easter!

Charter expands free Spectrum broadband internet and Wi-Fi offer to include educators who are new subscribers

On March 24, Charter announced it is expanding the eligibility for its 60-day free offer for Spectrum broadband internet and Wi-Fi access to include educators (K-12 teachers and college/university professors) who do not already have a Spectrum account.

A press release said, "During this unprecedented time, with the COVID-19 pandemic having forced schools, colleges and universities to close, it is more important than ever for students and educators to stay connected while they teach and learn."

Educators, who live in a Spectrum market and do not currently have broadband, can contact Spectrum at 1-844-488-8395 to sign up. A free self-installation kit will be provided to new student and educator households.

The press release added, "Now, more than ever, Americans rely on high-speed broadband in nearly every aspect of their lives, and Charter is com-

SCOTT & interiors
FURNITURE & Since 1953

QUALITY - SELECTION - LOW PRICES

Broyhill • Stanley • Pulaski
La-Z-Boy • Lea • Riverside

FREE DELIVERY

4419 Military Road, Niagara Falls

297-3060

Say You Saw It In The

nfp Tribune Sentinel

"Lori & Friends"

hosted by Lori Caso

LCTV Channel 1301
March 30th - April 12th
Mon 3am, 10am, 3pm • Wed 4am, 4pm, 10pm
Thur 3am, 10pm • Fri 10:30am
Sat 3:30am, 5:30pm • Sun 11:30am, 10pm

www.loricaso.com

Guest: Chef Mario from The Niagara Frontier Golf Club

A Milestone Video Production. Made possible by funds from...

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS
SENTINEL • TRIBUNE
DISPATCH • PENNSAVER
wnypapers.com

TOPS
Friendly Markets
906 CENTER ST., LEWISTON

Shine Studio
Toni Tierney
297-0181

LEWISTON-PORTER CHURCH DIRECTORY

Lutheran Church of the Messiah

915 Oneida Street, Lewiston
Phone: 754-4944 Fax: 754-0903
www.messiahlewisston.org

The Reverend Ashlin Marchese, Pastor
The Reverend Thomas R. Mason, Pastor Emeritus
Sunday Worship Service 8:15am & 10:00am

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 9:00am
2nd Sunday in September to third Sunday in May (Dates can vary)

Messiah Lutheran PreSchool Rose Aloian, Director

Share Your Message Call us at 773-7676