

April 2, 2020

Dear Crossroads Parents/Guardians,

We hope this e-mail finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Despite the uncertainty of this challenging time, we know you are doing the best you can for your child, your family, and yourselves. During these initial weeks of school closure, it is our hope that you have felt the presence and support of your child's Crossroads Team. Our clinical, educational, and related services teams have been working diligently to assess which individualized supports would most benefit your child and family. As we all navigate uncharted territory, your child's safety, well-being, and educational growth continue to be of the utmost importance.

On March 25, Governor Baker announced that public and private schools in Massachusetts must remain closed for in-person instruction until Monday, May 4th in order to prevent further spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Due to the extended nature of the closure and the potential for an even longer closure, schools across the state have been issued additional guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recommending that all schools adopt a **remote learning model**. Please take a moment to read [a letter from Jeffery C. Riley, the Commissioner of DESE, to families](#). In it, Mr. Riley provides guidance on the remote learning model. It is important to note that remote learning is not synonymous with online learning.

The shift to a remote learning model will undoubtedly present unique challenges for many of our learners and we do not expect remote learning to replicate the traditional school day. While we may not be able to provide all services as specified in your student's IEP, we are committed to working with your family to identify creative strategies to provide special education instruction and services to the best of our ability as is appropriate and beneficial for your child. We will use remote learning tools and instructional materials to provide students with appropriately structured and supported opportunities to keep learning alive.

For those caregivers who are interested and able to participate, remote learning/support may include:

- Direct Instruction (Individual) - via video conferencing
- Direct Instruction (Group) - via video conferencing
- Instruction Consultation - via video conferencing - guidance/coaching on parent-supported programming or student-led activities
- Relationship maintenance with faculty for students – via e-mail, video conferencing, or phone call with the student's Teacher or with any Crossroads faculty member (arranged by the Teacher)
- Relationship maintenance with peers for students – via e-mail, video conferencing, phone call, or letter writing between classmates (arranged by the Teacher)
- Support for Parents – via e-mail, video conferencing, or phone call with the student's Teacher/EBSC/Related Service Professional/Nursing to share success, express concerns, or problem solve any difficulties being experienced at home.



In the coming days, your child's Lead Special Education Teacher (LSET) will be reaching out to develop an **Individualized Remote Learning/Support Schedule** for your child. We encourage families to collaborate with your child's LSET, EBSC, and Related Services team to develop an individualized schedule that is both functional for your child and allows you to meet the demands of daily life. We recognize that your availability to participate in your child's remote learning may be limited; what worked one week may not work the next. We are committed to continuously assessing the evolving needs of our students and their families.

A note about IEPs:

If a student's IEP expires during the school closure period, the current IEP will remain in effect until a new IEP is developed and accepted. While it would be our preference to refrain from developing new IEPs during this remote learning phase, in circumstances where an IEP Team meeting is deemed imperative, Crossroads Staff can be made available telephonically or virtually using technologies such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Once school resumes, we will work with your student's school district to assess how the closure impacted the delivery of special education and related services and will convene IEP Team meetings as necessary.

We look forward to working with you all as we embrace these new and unique challenges together.

Thank you,

Mark Dumas, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Kevin Hardy, M.S. Ed.
Program Director

Lindsay Roberts, M.Ed., BCBA, LABA
Education Director

As a reminder, during the closure, please continue to email our Nursing Department (nurses@crossroadsschoolma.org) if you experience any symptoms of COVID-19: fever of 100.4 or higher, excessive coughing, or sudden shortness of breath without physical exertion; OR a staff member, student, or an individual that lives in your home is suspected of having COVID-19.