

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of the HUBBERS

March 30, 2020



**Smethport Area
School District
Administration Office**

414 South Mechanic St.
Smethport PA 16749
(814)887-5543 ~ phone
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David E. London
Superintendent

Susan M. Jordan
Business Manager

Brice N. Benson
High School Principal

Kristin J. Zona
Elementary Principal

Julia E. Anderson
Director of
Special Education

Kevin C. Kolivoski
Technology Coordinator

Re: Written Notice of the Smethport Area School District's Plan for Providing a "Free and Appropriate Public Education" during the COVID-19 Closure.

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Your child has previously been identified as a student with mental giftedness and in need of services under the 22 Pa. Code Chapter 16 - Special Education for Gifted Students. Under Chapter 16-Public School Code of 1949, gifted students are to be "children with exceptionalities" and in need of specially designed instruction and given the opportunity to participate in educational programming to meet their needs.

As we all navigate through the COVID-19 health emergency, we want to ensure that your child's Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP) and the services within his/her plan are upheld to the greatest extent possible in light of current circumstances. The school district will continue to provide gifted services to your child through a combination of planned instruction and/or review and enrichment activities as well as support provided by Mrs. Kelly Tarbox, our Gifted Support Teacher for the Smethport Area School District.

Your child's teacher has been in contact with you in regards to the services and supports outlined in your child's GIEP. Instruction will be provided virtually and/or through pencil paper activities. We are aware that not all children will learn best in this current environment. Once we are able to return to school, meetings will be scheduled for those students who need additional instruction, supports and services, and/or future education as a result of the time spent away from his/her usual school environment.

While we are operating under the closure, GIEP meetings will be held via phone or videoconferencing. If your child was to be administered new testing, contact will be made and evaluations will be completed as soon as possible once school resumes.

We understand the challenges school closure has caused and want to do our part in ensuring your child's access to learning. We also appreciate the expanded role that has been put upon you the parent/guardian. We strive to be a support to you as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Julia E. Anderson at (814) 887-2991 or janderson@smethportschools.com and/or Mr. David E. London at (814) 887-5543 and/or dlondon@smethportschools.com. Thank you for your flexibility, patience, and understanding.

Sincerely,

Julia E. Anderson

David E. London