

Shawsheen Valley Technical High School

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Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Dear Shawsheen students,

With all of the information being sent around over the past few days, I realize that although a lot of that information is about you, it is not always addressed to you, which is why I have decided to write this letter. Plus, I also really miss having you folks around – the building is a pretty boring place without students in it!

As you know from the letter I sent out yesterday, your teachers and counselors will be working to provide you with access to resources that will support your learning during this time. That is important, and I strongly urge you to take advantage of those learning opportunities. I also recognize, however, that there are other concerns occupying your minds.

First and foremost, I encourage you to do everything in your power to stay safe and healthy. Listen to the advice of public health and government officials: distance yourself from people outside of your household, wash your hands regularly, and gather information from trusted sources (not all memes are backed by science!). Trust me, I know this can be difficult, but it is essential to keep our loved ones and our communities safe. Make sure you take care of yourself: connect with friends using technology, get outside regularly to enjoy sunshine and some fresh air, reach out to trusted adults to discuss any concerns you are having, and do something every day that brings joy to your life.

I also want to recognize the uncertainty associated with the closures, and tell you that it is okay to feel disappointed about things that you are missing out on or worry that you will miss out on. I know that spring athletes wish they were gearing up for the season already, that seniors are concerned about missing out on milestone events they have been looking forward to, and that there are countless other examples I could list. A lot of people have been asking if senior prom and graduation have been canceled. They have not, and we will continue to evaluate events such as these as things evolve and more information becomes available over the coming weeks. We will do everything within our power to return things to normal once it is safe and we are able to do so. We will communicate what we know, once we know it, and don't take lightly the impact this is having on all of you.

Please know how much your teachers, guidance counselors, and other staff members are thinking of and caring about you. As we speak, staff are working (remotely) with their departments to prepare resources and communications to get out to you. The number one question I have been getting from our staff members each day is: "is there anything else I can do for our students right now?"

Above all else, trust in the fact that a lot of determined people, in this country and around the world, are working to put measures in place to keep all of us safe during this time. Do your part to take care of yourself and those around you, and don't forget to wash your hands!

I will be in touch regularly with information throughout the closure. Feel free to email me with questions anytime.

Best,



Ms. Cook
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