March 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of our Special Education Department’s plan to support our students with special needs and their families during this public health crisis. By now, you may have received individual packets of instructional materials that are being mailed out to parents and guardians of all students in our special education programs. These packets are being sent to students who attend our Pines Bridge, Walden and Fox Meadow schools as well as those who attend programs in our local school buildings in the Lakeland and Somers districts. Our Falls Academy and Oasis programs will post all instruction online.

The packets have been prepared specifically for your child by their classroom/lead teacher and team of relevant related service providers including occupational, physical and/or speech therapists as well as school counselors and others. They contain lessons for two weeks along with instructions for parents, guardians or caregivers. Online lessons will be posted continuously.

Additionally, you can expect your child’s teacher to contact you daily via email, telephone or video message, to provide continued instruction and support for students and families and to give you an opportunity to ask questions and let us know about any challenges you are experiencing. Related service providers will also be contacting families shortly to arrange consultations according to your child’s IEP.

We recognize that these are very challenging and unsettling times, and that the hardships on families of children with special needs may be particularly difficult. Despite the change in how we are delivering instruction, we are committed to working with you to support your child’s learning, development and emotional wellbeing.

We have confidence that we will get through this crisis, together.

Sincerely,

Lisa P. Hammel
Director of Special Education
Putnam | Northern Westchester BOCES