March 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our school district will be closed from March 16, 2020, to April 7, 2020. This new closure date is based on the recommendation of Governor Baker.

The decision to close was a difficult one to make as we considered the impact on our students and families. We also understand having large gatherings can cause additional spread of the Coronavirus, therefore we decided the closure was necessary.

The district has received multiple different messages as to what is the best course of action. Closing schools for a week allows the district time to sort through the information so we can make more informed decisions.

District officials will be meeting Monday to review how we will continue to feed students in the district and how we can support students with some learning at home. We realize that not all our families can access materials online, so we will be coming up with some alternative options.

Please take care of yourself as we move forward. Remember the best way to prevent this virus from spreading according to the CDC is to:

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds. If you cannot wash your hands, use alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60-95% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home from school or work when ill.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough into your sleeve.

As we move forward, please know we are in uncertain times. The district is doing its very best to be supportive of students and families. The district is being called upon to make unprecedented decisions. We are ready to face the challenge.

Sincerely,

Darcy Fernandes
Superintendent
Athol-Royalston Regional School District