Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

During this unprecedented time of school closure, your child is entitled to receive accommodations and services set forth through his/her IEP. In the coming days, you will be contacted by your student’s special education liaison to discuss an individualized distance learning plan; consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities, teachers and staff.

Governor Baker’s order prevents in-person instruction in order to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus. How the Norwood Public Schools will provide special education support and services to your child will look different during this period of national and state public health emergency. The District and your child’s Team will be making every effort to use creative strategies to provide special education instruction and services to the extent feasible through distance learning.

As you are a valuable member of your child’s educational program, we will be contacting you to solicit your participation in formulating a remote learning plan. It is important that we collaborate to prioritize learning experiences and activities during this school closure period. You will receive written notice describing your child’s individualized remote learning plan.

While the district remains obligated to protect students’ confidentiality and privacy, remote learning does not allow the district to control who is viewing a lesson, and therefore parents and students should be aware that there is no expectation of privacy with online learning. The district’s Acceptable Use Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy (including prohibiting cyberbullying) remain in effect, as well as student code of conduct and disciplinary rules.

Special Education services through distance learning may take different, creative forms. Some teachers may decide to record themselves and provide the recording to their students. Parents and students, however, may not record lessons. If a parent would like a recorded lesson to review with a student at home, parents should request a recording from the teachers/providers. Other teachers may provide activities and tutorials for students to engage in activities at home with parents and siblings.

We appreciate this is a challenging time for families and are here to support you. Please do not hesitate to ask questions, seek assistance with setting routines, and communicate with your child’s Team. We look forward to working with you and your child in this new capacity and eagerly await the day we are together in person again.

Be Well and Best Regards,
Lori Cimeno