Hello Squires Families! I hope today finds you safe and #healthyathome. These past couple of weeks have been a whirlwind of change that most likely have uprooted your normal. Because of that, I wanted to reach out with resources you may find helpful.

**Unemployment Information:**
If you have been laid off or have lost your job entirely, please strongly consider applying for unemployment. Benefits are now available to many who have never previously qualified. The website to begin that process is: https://kcc.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx. Be advised there are specific days on which to apply according to the first letter in your last name. That information is on the website.


**Childcare Providers for First Responders**
If you work with a health care entity, are a first responder (law enforcement, fire protection, EMS), a corrections officer, or work for DCBS and find yourself in need of childcare, there are centers operating specifically for your children. Please ask your employer for a complete list of options or email me at laura.hartman@fayette.kyschools.us for more information.

**Assistance Requests**
I know asking for help is never easy and you may feel other families “need it more.” However, we find ourselves in the midst of unprecedented times where we are doing lots of things for the first time. There is no shame or stigma in asking for help! If you find yourself in need of assistance with bills, clothing, or food, please contact me. While I do have funds available to assist with these needs, they are very limited both in quantity and timeframe.

- **Immediate food assistance can be found at God’s Pantry by calling 859-259-2308.** You are able to self-refer!
- If your child received a weekly food bag on Fridays through our Blessings in a Bag program, those items will be received by delivery/school pick-up on a week-to-week basis. The first week of the break, bags were delivered with 2 weeks of food, therefore, there has only been one delivery during break thus far. There will be NO deliveries during spring break. **If you are on the list and are not receiving those, it means I do not have your correct address. Please contact me via email and provide your current address!**
  - The FRC’s Blessings in a Bag is currently at full capacity. I’m always happy to place your child on the waiting list if needed. Please email me to do so.
- Suggestion: If you are able to continue paying your utility bills and rent, PLEASE do so! It may be tempting to forgo paying them, given the temporary suspension of disconnections and evictions. However, there will be an abundance of requests for assistance in the weeks and months to follow, which will place tremendous strain on community resources and quickly deplete funds. Again, contact me if you are in need of assistance! I will do my best to locate resources.
  - If and when you receive a stimulus check, consider thinking ahead and utilizing it for bills and true needs. Community agencies’ funds are not consistent over time and may not be available when you need them. I simply suggest this because I want the best possible outcomes for your families!

**Spectrum Cable Internet Offer**
Spectrum is offering free access to internet and WiFi for 60 days for new Pre-K to 12, college student and teacher households who don’t currently do have those services. Please call 855-243-8892 to sign up. Be patient, as this is a nationwide offer for families and hold times have increased.

- **Reminder:** Squires students will be logging into their Google Classrooms for instruction and assignments beginning April 6th. Internet access is required for this, so if you do not have it, please call Spectrum!
  - You are responsible for contacting Spectrum before your 60 day window expires to cancel service. If you do not cancel, you will be charged the current monthly premium.
  - Helpful tidbit: Spectrum also offers discounted prices for low-income households that may be beneficial after your 60 days.

I know this is A LOT of information at once, but I feel it is critical you have access to necessary resources in a central area! Please, please remember you are never alone right now. We are all in this together, paving the path as we go. As Governor Beshear would say, social-distancing does not mean social isolation! Use technology to video chat with family and friends. Write and mail cards and letters. Take walks outside and enjoy the warmer weather. And most importantly, keep a positive outlook! We ARE going to get through this and we will do so TOGETHER!

Lots of love and hugs,
Mrs. Hartman, Squires FRC
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