



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CHATHAMS

Office of the Superintendent

Michael LaSusa

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May 18, 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope that you and your families are well. I am sharing three updates, all of which share something positive for a change.

Food Assistance

Thanks to the generosity of numerous community members, the offer of food assistance continues to strengthen. I would like to share the following on behalf of a number of those folks:

- **\$25 Shoprite Gift cards** are available to anyone with a Chatham address in need of a helping hand at this time. Contact Joann Carroll at gjcarroll@optonline.net or text 201-988-9070 to make a request.
- **BOX CAR PRODUCE DONATIONS:** Joe Colangelo, Boxcar's CEO, has offered to donate 10 boxes of produce beginning Wednesday, May 20th to Chatham residents in need, for pickup along with the gift cards. In addition, residents can purchase a box to be donated directly to "Helping Hands" by visiting <https://platform.boxcarapp.com/listings/320/reserve>.
- **Shelf Stable Sustainable Lunches** that adhere to guidelines from Bridges Outreach requirements will be available for distribution (first come, first served basis). Bag lunch contents include: * Chicken or tuna salad meal kit (comes with 6 crackers and spoon with chicken or tuna) * applesauce or fruit cup * bag of pretzels * nutrigrain bar * 8oz bottled water or juice box.

Families in need should not be shy about accepting help— we are all in this together and Chatham residents are looking out for each other. For information about "Helping Hands" you may visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups.ChathamWeekendMeals/>

Pickups take place each Wednesday from 11:00 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. at the parking lot of Chatham United Methodist Church across the street from CVS on Main St. in Chatham Borough.

Parent and Student Wellness Series

Our student assistance counselors have been working with colleagues in neighboring districts to continue to offer parent programs virtually. The first program--Managing our Mental Health--will take place on Wednesday night and the second program--Angst--will follow on Thursday evening. Flyers for these events are attached.

TEDxYouth@Chatham

The first-ever Chatham TEDxYouth event took place about [a year ago](#). Although life is different this year, with the support of the Chatham Education Foundation, multiple staff members, and a number of committed students, we are planning for a virtual event on June 5. You can view the [promotional video](#) and [register for the event here](#).

Thank you again and I hope that we are able to enjoy some positive events and moments over these final weeks of school.

Sincerely,

Michael LaSusa

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