

Dear Antietam and Exeter Families,

The flooding that occurred on Sunday, July 9, 2023, has significantly impacted our communities. Unfortunately, the Antietam School District felt the greatest effects of this natural disaster when the Middle-Senior High School sustained severe damage. As a result, the building has been rendered unusable for the 2023-24 school year.

Antietam and Exeter have a long-shared history of working collaboratively with each other. As such, our districts are committed to working together through the recovery process. Exeter, like many neighboring districts in the County, has extended its hand to the Antietam school community in an effort to provide much needed support during this difficult time and ensure a successful start to the school year.

We understand that both communities are extremely interested in learning how we intend to work together. Therefore, we are currently exploring the following options on how we may be able to partner with each other for the upcoming school year:

1. Antietam has asked Exeter for space for two specialized-instruction classrooms, approximately 10 students per class. Exeter should be able to accommodate this request with no impact to its students or teachers as those students will be placed in separate classrooms with Antietam faculty and staff.
2. Antietam has requested space to prepare meals for their students. Right now, Exeter has provided Antietam kitchen space at Jacksonwald during the summer so that they may prepare meals for their summer feeding program. For the 2023-24 school year, Exeter is looking for solutions so that they may be able to accommodate this request without disruption to their own students or cafeteria staff.
3. Antietam has asked for space to accommodate their girls' tennis team and girls' volleyball team this fall. Exeter is evaluating those options right now in an effort to provide practice and competitive space for both programs.

As Antietam continues to formulate a recovery plan, Exeter, along with the other Berks County school districts, career and technology centers, and the Berks County Intermediate Unit, will work collaboratively to support the Antietam School District. We feel fortunate to live, learn, and work in Berks County where our school and community partners have always been supportive and extend their assistance in times of need.

In the meantime, if you, personally, are looking for ways in which you can help, we wanted to make you aware of this upcoming event that will help support both Antietam and Exeter families:

“Pasta with a Purpose”
Monday, July 24th from 5-7PM
Antietam Valley Recreation Center
905 Byram Street, Reading, PA 19606

The Antietam Valley Community Partnership (AVCP) is planning a free spaghetti dinner for community members. Donations are gratefully being accepted. The dinner will include spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, dessert, drink, and community fellowship.

Proceeds will benefit the flood victims of the Antietam Valley, which includes both Antietam SD and Exeter SD residents.

Learn more:
<https://www.facebook.com/AntietamValley>
<https://antietamvalley.org>

Thank you for your patience, partnership, and support as we collectively navigate these changes and accommodations. Both of our districts look forward to a successful start to the 2023-24 school year!

Sincerely,

Heidi Rochlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Antietam School District

Christy Haller, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Exeter Township School District