



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rockaway Borough School District Corona Virus Information Launching of Distance Learning Website March 16, 2020

Good evening Parents,

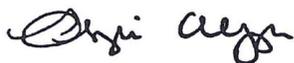
I am writing to update you regarding the start of our virtual learning and the launch of our Distance Learning Plan Site which will begin tomorrow Tuesday March 17th. As communicated with you last week and as a means to stop the possible spread of the Coronavirus, we have closed the district physically based on consultation with local health officials, but with guidance from the state we will begin distance learning for the next two weeks and remain open virtually in order to ensure continuity of instruction for our students as well as to meet the 180-day requirement set forth by the Department of Education. With that said, our staff has put together a viable plan to meet the needs of all students that is a combination of online learning blended with traditional paper and pencil elements that is also differentiated for all. Most instruction included will be geared to previously learned skills with the emphasis on practice and remediation. While we certainly hope this plan will help to keep students engaged during the closure, we are also very aware of the existing circumstances, and realize the necessity of being flexible and understanding regarding expectations for students, their families and our staff. Here are the key essentials:

- Students in all grades Prek-8 can find their daily and weekly assignments on our **Distance Learning Plan** Site which is accessible through our district website www.rockboro.org. Instruction is set up in folders by grade level and then broken down by weeks and days. Right now there are two weeks of work to cover our designated closure dates of March 16th-27th.
- Assignments for core academic subjects such as English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies have been prepared for each day of the week while assignments for grade level Specials are listed periodically during each week's schedule as occurs during a regular school week or cycle. In addition, students receiving supplementary instruction will find links for their assignments in those areas as well.
- To help students in managing their time, teachers have included suggested approximate times on task for designated subjects.
- The site in general will be accessible to teachers, students and parents and will be updated as and when needed.
- Students will be able to turn in assignments for grading and assessment throughout the closure via electronic means as well as in person upon returning to school. Completion of work will also be considered in regards to attendance.

- Attendance will be taken daily via a Google form that can be accessed on our district website. Students are asked to log in by 9:00 each day and can find all instructions on the website. If students are unable to log in electronically, teachers will assume they are “present” unless a phone call is made to their school building to report their absence. If there are concerns regarding a particular student’s absence or participation, someone from the given school will reach out to the family.
- As mentioned before, teachers will be monitoring student work and be available online during virtual “office hours” for consultation from 8:30am-1:30pm with an hour for lunch from 11:30am-12:30pm. Grade level teachers will work as a team unit so in case of a staff emergency or illness, students and their families will always have someone to contact.
- If you are in need of tech support, we ask that you email our team at gentech@rockboro.org and our staff will do our best to assist you.
- Besides our teachers, our therapists and Child Study Team members will also be available for consultation via our district email. Our nurses and counselors while available through email may be on call if needed and will have their own page on the Distance Learning Plan site with resources and suggestions for both you and your children.
- In addition to our instructional lessons, the Distance Learning Site will also provide additional resources regarding health related issues, communications from county, state and national sources as well as a “Daily Dose from Your Admin Team” to help brighten your day, keep your spirits high and keep us all connected during this unpredictable time.
- Students who participate in the National School Lunch Program (Free and Reduced program) are eligible for a Shelf stable breakfast and lunch to be picked up in front of Thomas Jefferson Middle School daily from 11am -1pm. If for any chance, you want to opt out of this program, we ask that you send an email to our Business office c/o wchandler@rockboro.org as to help us monitor supplies and purchases.
- At any time, if you have questions or concerns, you can reach out to the Admin Team or myself via email or by phone as the office staffs in all three buildings will be keeping abbreviated office hours during the closure unless otherwise directed by local Health officials.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this very challenging time and certainly unprecedented time for education and learning in New Jersey. We promise to keep you informed and updated and will do our best to keep learning alive for our Rockaway Borough students.

May your stay safe and healthy.
Best wishes always,



Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent