



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rockaway Borough School District Corona Virus Information Governor Closes Schools for the Remainder of the Year May 4, 2020

Dear Rockaway Borough Families,

First and foremost, I hope you and family are healthy and well and surviving the best you can during this very unrepresented time.

Today we received the long awaited announcement from Governor Murphy who shared that all New Jersey school buildings will remained closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year with remote learning continuing for the current year. With this announcement, the Governor's Executive Order will remain in effect until June 30, 2020 to best support the health, safety and welfare of our students, our staff and their families.

Following that directive, Rockaway Borough Schools will continue with Distance Learning for the remainder of the school year. Here are a few reminders of our course of action for the upcoming weeks:

- As per our plan initiated following closure in mid-March, we will continue to utilize our Distance Learning site that can be found on our district website to post daily lessons for the week. Archived lessons will also be available if needed. In addition to supporting students and families of all households, we will continue to designate each Friday as "Flexible Friday" and devote that day for remedial or catch up work and not introduce any new material. Our hope is that students can take advantage of Fridays to catch up on both core academic work as well as special area subjects. We as a school community are very aware of the challenges our families are facing on a daily basis and want to be as flexible as possible in working with you while delivering instruction.
- Instruction will be delivered in a variety of methods and platforms that are appropriate for the particular age group or subject with increased emphasis on asynchronous learning.
- All staff members in addition to preparing and delivering lessons will continue to keep "virtual office hours" from 8:30am-11:30am and 12:30pm-1:30pm and be available to monitor, support and connect with students.
- As parents, please continue to monitor your child(ren) and their studies and make sure they log in daily by 9:00am even on Flexible Fridays. If work gets too challenging or frustrating, feel free to give them appropriate breaks or much needed permission to return to the tasks at a later time or date as everyone's mental well-being is equally important as completing their school work.
- If at any point, you have any questions or concerns, your first point of contact should be your child's teacher, but as mentioned previously, if you still have concerns after speaking with your child's teacher, please feel free to reach out to the building principal or myself.

Moving forward, now that we have the Governor's announcement, there are a number of other items that we as a district will be looking to address in the weeks to come. They include the following:

- Extended School Year will take place as usual, but delivery as per the governor is still to be determined. Letters to perspective students are in the mail with more information to follow.
- To support nutritional needs, meal distribution for all Rockaway Borough students in need will continue and take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30am-12:30pm at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.
- Now that it has been determined that buildings will remain closed to in-person instruction, the district is in the process of finalizing plans for both pick up of student belongings as well as return of district materials and resources such as textbooks and technological devices. Information regarding our district "pack up" will be shared in the near future with an emphasis on efficiency and of course, student and staff safety.
- Also the district will be making decisions regarding the best ways to celebrate the Class of 2020 that will do them justice, but at the same time support the overall safety of the community as well as follow local and state directives. Within the next week, 8th grade parents should be receiving information from Mr. Waxman and the 8th grade advisors regarding Graduation plans as well as refunds for the Washington DC trip that was sadly cancelled.
- In addition, we are looking to revise our 2019-20 school calendar (pending Board of Education approval) to utilize our three remaining snow days and thus, end the year current year on Monday June 15th. Once this is approved, the revised calendar will be posted on our website and any other relevant and important dates will be reconciled.

Also as reminded previously, please check our website and Distance Learning Plan as well as follow us on social media regularly for important announcements, resources and general information regarding the district and its responses to the COVID 19 crisis as we are always posting new items, resources and information.

As always, I cannot thank you enough for your continued support and cooperation as this health crisis has certainly changed not only the way we educate our children, but quite frankly the way we all live our everyday lives.

Hopefully with our health, we can get through this together.
Sincerely yours.



Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent