



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rockaway Borough School District Corona Virus Information Update on Distance Learning Site March 29, 2020

Dear Rockaway Borough Families,

First and foremost, we hope this finds all of our families safe and healthy. These are certainly challenging times for us all as we send you our warmest wishes of health and safety to our families.

We think that it is safe to say that we have all been dealt a challenging hand and that the phrase 'we are all in this together' could not be a truer statement. We now have two weeks of distance learning under our belts, with more weeks to come, and an uncertain future beyond that. From the administrative level on through our teachers and support staff, we have been in constant communication and have also heard and been in touch with many of you, our families, as we take a pulse of our current educational landscape and are constantly reassessing. We began this endeavor with a vision which we still do not divert from; supporting our children, as top priority and also working to put a flexible educational plan in place for them through distance learning. As we now have two weeks behind us, we still hold to that vision, but have also altered our actual educational plans based on feedback from parents, students and staff. Please take note of the following points as we move forward with our distance learning plans.

- Distance Learning Plans will be visible for families one week at a time. Work may be revised in the plans, as per student progress and will continue to be posted on our district website www.rockboro.org.
- We will be working on a 5 day, weekly schedule as opposed to the 6-day cycle for the distance learning time period.
- Each Friday will be a 'Flexible Friday' and will be devoted to remedial or catch-up work with teachers. No new work will be assigned on Fridays.
- Our teaching staff has 'virtual hours' of 8:30am-1:30pm with a one-hour lunch break from 11:30am-12:30pm. Our students do not need to be working on assigned tasks beyond those times unless it is by their own choice.
- Student work time per class, per subject area will range from 30-40 minutes. For alternating Social Studies and Science Days, it may be double that. Special Area teachers will assign one 30-40minute learning activity per 5-day week. These assignments will be due at the end of the week and can be completed in any order the students so choose.

- If your child is struggling at any point in their learning, please encourage them to contact their teacher during virtual hours. It is perfectly acceptable to have a child stop working at home, if this is occurring as our staff is flexible with work, assignments and due dates during this period.
- Please ensure that your child logs in to the 'school attendance' by 9am each day as 'absent' or 'present' before proceeding to their distance learning schoolwork, each day.
- Spring Break will be a true Spring Break starting on Friday April 10th and extending through Friday April 17th. During this time, there will be no work for students or staff.
- If at any point, you have any questions or concerns, your first point of contact should be your child's teacher. We are here to support your child and will work with you on this. If you still have concerns after speaking with your child's teacher, please feel free to reach out to the building principal.

In addition, we want to remind you that any Rockaway Borough students who are currently receiving free or reduced meal benefits may pick up meals from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Thomas Jefferson School. This also applies to Borough residents who are students at Morris Hills or Morris Knolls High School.

Also please check our website for information regarding tech services and support as well as Home Wi-Fi Options now available for Rockaway Borough students and their families.

As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation, and please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely yours.

Your Rockaway Borough Administrative Team