



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

103 EAST MAIN STREET
ROCKAWAY, NEW JERSEY 07866
TEL: 973-625-8601
FAX: 973-625-7355

MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Rockaway Borough School District Corona Virus Information Update on School Closure April 16, 2020

Dear Rockaway Borough Families,

First and foremost, I hope you and family are healthy and well and enjoying your spring break. Hopefully, this much needed break has helped you all get through this very trying time.

Today Governor Murphy addressed the state, and has ordered that New Jersey schools will remain closed due to the health related COVID 19 crisis until Friday May 15th. At that point or prior to it, the Governor will reassess the situation regarding re-opening.

Following that directive, Rockaway Borough Schools will remain closed and will continue with Distance Learning following Spring break on Monday April 20th through May 15th until otherwise directed. 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 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 who are unable to submit or complete current work or were unable to complete 3rd marking period assignments can take advantage of that time, to literally catch up. Please know 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.
- 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. I speak with certainty that our staff has most definitely gone above and beyond in their efforts to address our new educational model and will do so moving forward whether our distance learning continues for four weeks or more.
- As parents, please continue to monitor your child(ren) and their studies and make sure they log in daily by 9:00am. 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.

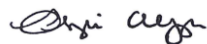
Also in response to the health crisis and our concern for the safety of our students, the district has made the decision to cancel the 8th grade Washington DC trip. While this is certainly disappointing, we feel it is the best move, and are currently working with our 8th grade team to find creative ways to best celebrate the Class of 2020. Mr. Waxman and 8th grade advisors will be reaching out to parents and students hopefully in the near future to share their ideas as well as information regarding financial reimbursements. In general, the entire staff is in the process of exploring new ways to keep the RAMS spirit alive during the closure, and keep our students connected to each other, but the community as well.

In addition, we want to remind you that meal distribution for any Rockaway Borough students who are currently receiving free or reduced meal benefits will resume after spring break starting Monday April 20th but following a revised schedule. As part of the revised schedule, meals will now be distributed only on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30am-12:30pm at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

Also please check our website and 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.

As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation, and please stay safe and healthy. Remember, we are all in this together and together we will come through this.

Sincerely yours.



Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent