



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

December 3, 2020

Dear Parents, Students and School Families,

I am reaching out to you regarding our latest response to the Coronavirus. While we have been extremely fortunate in the past months in keeping our doors open for in-person instruction, the situation has changed in the past ten days. In addition to the growing number of positive cases (three additional ones this week) related to the school, we are struggling on a daily basis to effectively cover staff absences due to the mandatory quarantining for diagnosed cases, direct contacts and even potential cases involving COVID like symptoms. With limited coverage possibilities and more and more of our school family presenting with possible cases, we feel it is important to take all necessary precautions to keep our students, their families, our staff and the entire Rockaway Borough community healthy and safe.

With that said, after much consultation with our local Health officials, the Board of Education, and our administrative team, **we have decided to switch from in-person to remote learning for all district schools effective Monday December 7th through Wednesday December 23rd** to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 as well as deal with staffing concerns. While tomorrow will be the last day for students for in-person instruction, virtual classes based on our six-day cycle will start on Monday 12/7 with Day #3. Towards the end of the designated closure period, we will reassess to see if re-opening the schools after the holidays will be feasible. Also while the buildings are closed for instruction, there will be no BoroKids services.


- As with all other virtual days, students will be required to log in each day, as attendance will be taken through our Distance Learning Site and/or each teacher's Google classroom session. Students, who do not participate, will be considered absent. Parents, please make sure that Lincoln students log in by 8:30am while Thomas Jefferson students should start their day at 8:20am. More specific information will follow from each building principal.
- During remote learning, students should follow their current six-day cycle schedules with regards to classes, therapies and interventions.
- Our Tech support will also remain in place to assist both students and staff with any technical issues.
- Besides our teachers, our counselors, therapists, nurses, and administration will also be available for consultation via our district email. Voicemails left on school phone accounts will be accessible to staff through their emails. For now, both school main offices as well as the Central Office will remain open for regular business hours.
- Throughout the closure, our established meal program for any and all interested students will continue with distribution every Monday at Thomas Jefferson from 1:00-2:00pm. For more information or to place your weekly order, please check our website <https://www.rockboro.org/domain/1131>
- As in the past, updated communications will be posted periodically via our district website (www.rockboro.org), sent out through K-12 alerts and our Constant Contact platforms so please check these venues periodically.

I know this decision will most likely be a hardship as well as disappointing for most families, as it is for us, but it is one that was well-thought out and much needed in light of our current situation to keep individuals safe, but also promote continuity of instruction for all students. Also please know that the district is and will continue to

coordinate closely with public health officials, so any individuals or people who had contact with persons diagnosed as positive will or have been contacted by the Department of Health or by our school nurses.

In final note, many thanks to you all for your continued support and understanding regarding this very challenging and potentially unprecedented situation. More importantly, please know that we are here for you and your children, and are committed to do what's best for the Borough and the safety of all concerned.

Best wishes and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phyllis Alpaugh".

Phyllis Alpaugh
Superintendent