



Lakewood Board of Education

200 Ramsey Avenue, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Main Office: (732) 364-2400 Fax: (732) 905-3687

Laura A. Winters, Superintendent of Schools

March 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the State of New Jersey announced that the closure of all schools is inevitable to mitigate the exposure of COVID-19.

Many districts in Ocean and Monmouth Counties have chosen to close as of Monday, March 16, 2020, due to "Social Distancing."

Since Lakewood is the only District in Ocean County, that has a student population in which 100% of its students receive free lunch and breakfast, and which 40% of its students do not have internet access or computers at home, as per a technology survey taken last week, the District will open on Monday, March 16, 2020, in order for students to receive their instructional packets and take home any textbooks and supplies that they might need.

The decision to open the schools was made in consultation with community leaders including the NAACP, La Vos Latina, parents throughout the community and medical experts.

On **Monday, March 16, 2020**, students will be picked-up at their bus stops 30 minutes later than normal. This will allow students to go right to their classrooms, preventing them from gathering in large groups. **Staff members do not have a delayed opening.**

- ◆ Students will be eating breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.
- ◆ Students will not be taking Physical Education class in the gymnasium.
- ◆ All student assemblies are canceled until further notice.
- ◆ All class trips are canceled until further notice.
- ◆ All athletic practices are canceled until further notice.
- ◆ All after school activities are canceled until further notice.
- ◆ All students must go home on their regularly assigned bus.
- ◆ **Sick students will be sent home immediately!**
- ◆ **Do not sent a sick child to school!**

The Technology department has been busy purchasing Chromebooks, iPads and WIFI services, for over 6,000 district students, so that all students are provided with the same opportunities, as those students who have computers and internet access.



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Families, who are in need of a computer, should contact Jim Trischitta at Jtrischitta@Lakewoodpiners.org. You will need to provide a valid ID, proof of residency, as well as sign a technology agreement, at the time of pick-up. Request form attached.

Sodexo Food Service & Gelbstein's has been busy ordering food and supplies in order to provide our over 6,000 students with a brown bag breakfast and lunch throughout the closure! The District's waiver to serve meals during COVID-19 was approved on Saturday, March 14, 2020!

The District has been conferring with the Ocean County Department of Health and the Ocean County Superintendent of Schools, and will be announcing that all Lakewood School building will be **CLOSED, once the Governor announces the closure of all Public Schools in the state of New Jersey on Monday, March 16, 2020.**

The Lakewood School District, in all probability, will announce the closure of all Public Schools as of **Tuesday, March 17, 2020**, and will begin its Distance Learning Plans, as per the **District's Health-Related School Closure Preparedness Plan** (attached).

- ◆ All students will receive a 20-day instructional work packet that must be completed.
- ◆ Attendance during school closure days will be counted based on the completion of all assignments.
- ◆ Assignments will count as a homework grade.
- ◆ Students can watch their teacher "teach" lessons online. Your child's teacher will email him/her through their school email! (New videos will be uploaded every day between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.)
- ◆ Distance Learning – Google Classroom & Google Meet
- ◆ Your child's teacher will call you every week to check on his/her progress.
- ◆ Your child will receive free breakfast and lunch every day (Monday through Friday). It will be delivered via a school bus at the normal time that your child is scheduled to be picked-up for school at his/her bus stop in the **morning**.
Please be patient the first few days, in case the bus is running late.
- ◆ If your child is a walker, you may pick up his/her breakfast and lunch at his/her assigned school each day between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- ◆ Your child's teacher is available between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. every day for questions via email.



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- ♦ If your child gets sick during the school closure, please notify your child's school nurse.
 1. Gayda, Christine- Piner- cgayda@lakewoodpiners.org
 2. Maley, Eileen- Spruce- emaley@lakewoodpiners.org
 3. McClatchey, Mary- Clarke- mmclatchey@lakewoodpiners.org
 4. Neppel, Arlene- CAGS- aneppe@lakewoodpiners.org
 5. Pomponio, Myra- LMS- mpomponio@lakewoodpiners.org
 6. Pugliese, Barbara- LHS- mpugliese@lakewoodpiners.org
 7. Schacht, Corinne- LECC- cschacht@lakewoodpiners.org
 8. Williams-Browne, Hyacinth- Oak- hbrowne@lakewoodpiners.org

As a reminder, during a school closure:

- ♦ All childcare programs are canceled.
- ♦ All athletic programs, including all practices are canceled.
- ♦ No students or children may enter any district school or building.

If you have any questions during the school closure, and would like to contact the Principal/Supervisor of your child's school:

1. Deb Long, - Principal of Clifton Avenue Grade School – Dlong@Lakewoodpiners.org
2. Deb Meabe – Principal of Ella G. Clarke School – Dmeabe@Lakewoodpiners.org
3. Joe Schroeffer – Oak Street School – Jschroeffer@Lakewoodpiners.org
4. Aleida Salguero – Spruce Street School – Asalguero@Lakewoodpiners.org
5. Marcy Marshall – Piner Elementary School – Mmarshall@Lakewoodpiners.org
6. Rich Goldstein- Lakewood Middle School – Rgoldstein@lakewoodpiners.org
7. Ebony Rivera – Lakewood High School – Erivera@Lakewoodpiners.org
8. Heni Mozes – Lakewood Early Childhood Center (LECC) – Hmozes@lakewoodpiners.org

We understand that school closure is challenging for all students and their families, as well as staff, however, it is necessary to ensure the safety of our communities.



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Please let me know if there is anything, I can do to help during this difficult time.

Respectfully,

Laura A. Winters

Laura A. Winters
Superintendent of Schools
Lwinters@Lakewoodpiners.org

c:

Kevin Campbell, Assistant Business Administrator
Moshe Bender, President of the Board of Education
David Shafter, State Monitor
Members of the Board of Education
General Counsel Michael I. Inzelbuch, Esquire

Attachments: Health-Related School Closure Preparedness Plan
Technology Request Form