

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to share with you an update concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We continue to monitor the developments from the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) and the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) as they are received. Our maintenance staff is continuing to take additional measures to clean and disinfect all areas of our schools. This process is on-going day and night. Procedures regarding sending home staff and students who become sick in school are in place, and we want to remind you to emphasize to your children the importance of efficient hand washing and basic hygiene. Please continue to keep your children home from school when they are sick, and keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication. On a positive note, in reaching out to our nursing staff, I have established that there is no rising trend in absenteeism, and our attendance rate in all schools is solid.

The school district continues to receive regular communication from the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. The most significant information released from the NJDOH is that they may have the need to put in place health-related school closures. We are being directed to plan and prepare for the possibility of providing our learners home-based lessons. In light of this, we are presently developing our home-based curriculum, which will include, but will not be limited to, virtual learning via Google Classroom, IXL, Raz-Plus, Pearson Realize, and student packets. Our home-based instruction provided to students will count towards our required 180 school day minimum, if and only if, a health-related closure was to take place. Any closures made without written documentation from the NJDOH or the NJDOE will not be counted.

As a reminder, we should never make the assumption that a sick student or staff member has COVID-19. As per the NJDOH, the immediate health risk to the general public is still low. In taking precautionary measures, our intention is to be proactive, and to ensure the health of our community to the best of our ability.

At this time, we have not been given any directive that we should cancel events or close schools. However, we will be vigilant in communicating with you any changes that arise.

Once again, schools will continue to operate per our school district calendar. As always, I thank you for your continued support and understanding during this unique situation.

Respectfully,

Dr. Angela P. Bender  
Superintendent of Schools