

HARRINGTON PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 12, 2020

Dear HP Families,

As a family, we have spent the past few weeks monitoring and engaged in the rapidly changing COVID-19 coronavirus health issue in our region and across the world. Every step we have taken over the past couple of weeks, has been after thoughtful consideration and deep discussions with many who are invested in both the education and well-being of our children.

We have been working closely with our district leadership, school board, educators, health departments, labor groups, families, peer school districts and elected officials to plan, for what the CDC suggested, may be a required change from our daily routines. NJDOE State Commissioner, Dr. Repollett, recommended last week that districts engage in contingency planning for the possibility of extended school closure should the situation in our state dramatically change in the coming weeks. As you know from previous communications, we have been engaged in that work, in earnest.

Now, the time has come for our district community to make an important shift. The Harrington Park School District, as with the 74 other Bergen County school districts, will be closed beginning Monday, March 16th until further notice. **Tomorrow March 13th we will be having an early dismissal for students to assist in finalizing plans for this closure. As school will end at 12:45 PM, we ask that you please make arrangements for child care.**

Who makes the decision to close the district?

The decision to close school and provide instruction through an alternate means has been made by the Bergen County Executive in collaboration with the [New Jersey Department of Health.](#)

What about our students' education?

Education is a mission to which our district is resolutely committed. To that end, we are shifting our education from the classroom with four walls to the cloud. Over the past several days, the district has been making preparations to shift our instructional practices to a home instruction model. By transitioning from the classroom to the cloud, we are giving medical/public health officials and the community time to get some critical answers regarding incubation period, level and length of contagious status as well as a communication strategy that includes all necessary partners.

Are we ready for school to digital learning?

Our instructional staff have and will continue to develop their skills for providing instruction to our students within an online environment. The education of our students is dependent on our entire community. While the idea of online instruction or blended learning is not new to our instructional team, moving instruction fully online is a journey that we will all navigate

together. If you have a specific question or concern about the first iteration of our classroom to cloud learning model, or a technology issue, please let us know.

How do my children access the digital material?

Parents and students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade, can also access their work on Google Classroom. Teachers have created a grade level classroom where they will post their work. Parents can access the information by visiting our website, www.hpsd.org, and choosing the Academics tab. Parents should then choose [Elementary Classrooms K - 3](#). Parents will find the username and password that they can use to access the grade's Google Classroom. Once in Google Classroom, choose the Classwork tab to see the work that was assigned. If you have any questions about the work, please email your child's teacher.

Students in grades 4th through 8th grade, can access their classroom materials within the teacher's Google Classroom. The students should be extremely familiar with this environment as they have been working in this platform since September.

What about my child who requires special education services?

Instructional staff who provide services to our students with disabilities will make every effort to deliver the service minutes indicated in each student's IEP utilizing the platforms available. Please contact Dr. Korner for any specific questions.

How will you take attendance?

Parents and/ or students will be asked to log into the [Parent Portal](#) within Realtime. This is the same Parent Portal feature that families use to access your child's report card. Choose Single Day from the Date Type, pick the current date, and choose the Home Instruction option. Please note that this needs to be done everyday and requests for multiple days will not be approved by our staff. Family members that need their parent portal information should contact Ms. Piatkowski via email at piatkowski@hpsd.org. Attendance issues should be referred to Ms. Urban via email at urban@hpsd.org.

<https://www.fridayparentportal.com/portal/security/login.cfm?msg=Session%20Timed%20Out>

What about after-school and extracurricular activities and future events?

As school is closed, all after-school and extracurricular activities are canceled. We will provide future information on how this closure will impact future events as we get a greater understanding of the circumstances and the timeline to return to the District.

How do I learn about COVID-19 coronavirus and how to reduce risks for my family?

This link will provide you with information on the virus and how the Harrington Park School District has been preparing and will be communicating to each one of you as we move forward.

I want to close by sharing how thankful and humbled I am by each and every one of our family members as we navigate this unprecedented challenge. Throughout my time here in HP, we have always cared for one another and supported one another to a level that makes us all feel like a part of the family. It is my hope and prayer that this period of time passes and all of our family members are healthy and safe. Let us not forget to both act with precaution and be careful with our own health. We will continue to have challenges in front of us, and I know we can meet these challenges together.

Best,

Adam D. Fried, Ed.D.

“Leading the Way”

191 Harriot Avenue

Harrington Park, New Jersey 07640 Tel: 201-768-5700 Fax: 201-768-3767