



MULLICA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mrs. Donna Leshner
Elementary School Principal

Mr. Andrew Weber
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Karen Gfroehrer
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Mrs. Maris Lynn
Middle School Principal

Home of the Coyotes

Mr. Scott Sarraiocco
Supervisor of Curriculum & Data

March 29, 2020

Dear Mullica School Family,

I hope this communication finds you and your family safe and well. As we enter into our third week of remote learning due to the unprecedented coronavirus school closure, I wanted to take a moment to update you on some important items.

First, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the efforts of our teaching staff. I continue to be impressed with the dedication and creativity they are bringing to their instruction and enthusiasm with which they have embraced the responsibility to provide meaningful learning opportunities via remote learning. We are lucky to have such a great staff!

At this moment, we do not have a definitive date for reopening school. Governor Murphy has stated, "the decision to reopen will be based on careful discussion with our public health and safety experts, and with our educators and districts, and will be guided by the facts on the ground." Additionally, the Governor went on to say, "We do not intend to assess the reopening of schools until at least April 17, 2020, at the earliest."

In regards to standardized assessments, this past week the New Jersey Department of Education announced that New Jersey will NOT be administering the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) in Math, Language Arts, and Science for the 2019-2020 school year.

We will remain closed for spring break, from Friday, April 10th through Friday, April 17th. During this time, students will not need to participate in remote learning nor will teachers provide learning activities. Please use the break as a means to engage in activities other than screen time.

Our school closure situation continues to evolve. To that end, we will be gradually introducing changes to our remote learning model, transitioning from the maintenance of skills and standards to the pursuit of incremental growth. We are also mindful of the time and effort students and parents are putting forth, as remote learning can be stressful. You can expect to continue to receive school and grade level specific communication from your child's principal and teacher(s).

Remote learning has introduced a host of new and different experiences for students and has magnified some experiences previously familiar to them. The amount of screen time required of students during remote learning is higher than a typical school day. Recognizing the need to "unplug", the district will begin instituting Family Fun Fridays, during which students will have a

reduced schedule of work and online interactions. We encourage our students and families to engage in healthy activities, away from devices, which promote wellness on Friday afternoons. Recognizing the need for wellness, our school counselors, Mallory Zolinas and Bill Maher, in coordination with the child study team, have produced a Wellness Newsletter, which will be sent to all parents on a weekly basis. The first edition is available on the district website. Other activities, including PBIS, will be communicated as needed.

Please continue to visit the district website, www.mullicschools.com, for factual information and resources. Additionally, we are here to support you and appreciate your understanding, flexibility, and patience as we journey through this unprecedented experience together.

#WeAreMullica

Warmly,

Andrew Weber

Superintendent of Schools