



Dr. George J. Rafferty • Superintendent of Schools
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Saturday, March 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff:

On Friday evening, I sent out a phone broadcast informing you that the Mount Laurel School District, along with all the public school districts in Burlington County, was directed by the Burlington County Health Department to close immediately on Monday, March 16 and not reopen until Monday, April 20, 2020 due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The intent of the Health Department was to err on the side of caution and lengthen our closure by placing it before our regularly scheduled Spring Break, which commences on Friday, April 10, 2020.

On March 9th, I informed you that every school district in New Jersey had been tasked with creating a plan for educating students in the event a closure is ordered. I want you to know that is exactly what we did.

We have the capability to provide online home educational services and learning to all students. We are a 1:1 Chromebook district from Grades 1 through 8 and have long been an adopter of the Google Suite of Classroom programs for teaching and learning in all our classrooms. As a parent, you know already that your child and their teachers make use of these programs in their daily teaching and learning activities. Now more than ever, we will be taking advantage of the live teaching components of these tools and the rich educational and curricular resources we have adopted to deliver home instruction to your child.

On Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 all school staff will report to their schools to prepare for launching our online learning platform for all students, preschool through 8th grade. These services will begin on Wednesday, March 18th. Home instructional services and learning activities will be provided up through Thursday, April 9, 2020, then we will begin our spring break. These services will include adaptations and accommodations for students with disabilities, students in our early childhood programs, and our English Language Learners.

Please appreciate that we have a highly professional and skilled teaching and support staff capable of providing meaningful learning opportunities and support services to your child. Our administrators and staff will be working closely together and with you to ensure your child's needs are met. Open lines of communication will not only be available and encouraged between you and your child's teachers, but with our district administration, principals, supervisors, school nurses, guidance counselors, and all special education and related services staff.

Finally, as part of our preparation for online home learning, we want to provide you an opportunity to pick up your child's technology and school materials to use during our closure.

For elementary school parents, you can pick up your child's Chromebook and school materials at your elementary school on Tuesday, March 17 according to the times listed. Of course, if you have children in multiple grades at your elementary school, we will work with you. We all must be flexible with each other during this time.

Grades Pre-k/Kindergarten to 2	9AM to 12 noon
Grades 3 and 4	12 noon to 3 PM
Preschool – 4th	Evening hours: 5PM to 8PM

Hartford and Harrington parents, your school principals, Mr. Stanard and Mr. Caltabiano, will be sending your specific pick-up schedule separately.

All parents are asked to try to adhere to these pick-up times as we are attempting to minimize the number of people visiting our schools at once and attempting to exercise social distancing during the process.

We will continue to communicate with you as often as necessary to ensure that you are well informed. We will continue to post information and our plans on our [district website](#) as well. We will also be collecting information from you via electronic surveys to plan accordingly, so please be sure to complete them when received.

Please be aware that our food and nutritional services will continue and be available to you during our closure. A plan will be communicated to you in the event you wish to participate.

I am so proud of the amazing administrators, staff, and teachers I work with in your schools each day. They are dedicated and care deeply about your child. We will do all that we can to succeed in this endeavor together with you.

Our schools may be closed, but our partnership and connection to you and your child on a daily basis is not.

Sincerely,

George J. Rafferty, Ed. D.

Superintendent of School

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