



**Dr. George J. Rafferty • Superintendent of Schools**  
330 Mount Laurel Road • Mount Laurel, NJ 08054  
Phone - 856-235-3387 • Fax - 856-235-1837  
[grafferty@mtlaurelschools.org](mailto:grafferty@mtlaurelschools.org) • [www.mtlaurelschools.org](http://www.mtlaurelschools.org)

May 15, 2020

Dear Mount Laurel School Families,

We continue to hope you and your family remain safe and healthy during this time. You have truly been our school family heroes over these past two months. We recognize that helping your children through online learning each day while managing all other aspects of your lives in such uncertain times has been a challenge. We deeply appreciate your partnership in helping us support your child's learning and success.

### **Virtual Learning Platform Adjustments**

I want to update you at this time about some major developments concerning changes to your child's learning platform. Beginning next week, Monday, May 18, we will be instituting **Technology-Free Fridays!** We have heard from many of you and realize the demands that daily live instruction has placed on you. We want to give you and your child a mental break from all the basic core content areas, related-arts classes, live teaching, logging in to Chromebooks, and helping your child or children navigate learning.

Therefore, every Friday, beginning next Friday, May 22nd, you and your child can take a respite from online learning. Teachers will still accept questions from students and parents and participate in any required meetings. Child study team case management, guidance, and school nursing services will be available too.

Furthermore, to meet the special needs of students, special education related services such as Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy scheduled on Fridays will remain in place. Also, Instrumental Music, Corrective Reading and Basic Skills Math, 1:1 interventions, and Title I services will continue on Fridays, if scheduled.

## **8th Grade Promotion Exercises**

When the NJ Department of Education and the Office of Emergency Management communicated to all school districts that “only virtual ceremonies can be planned at this time” we began taking steps in that direction. Early next week, Mr. Caltabiano, Principal of Harrington Middle School, will be sharing details about our plans for virtual Eighth-Grade Promotion Ceremonies and other special surprises in store for our 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Our efforts toward celebrating the milestones reached in this 2019-2020 school year and those anticipated in 2020-2021 are a priority.

## **More Information Forthcoming**

Since all schools in New Jersey are closed for the remainder of the school year, we are discussing and developing plans related to the end of the year. Our ***Technology-Free Fridays*** are a part of those plans. In the coming weeks, we will also share details about 4th Marking period report cards, criteria for student placement in certain academic programs for the 2020-2021 school year, how students’ personal items will be returned, and plans for summer instructional programs available through virtual learning.

Beyond those procedural items, however, June 19, 2020 remains the last day of a significant school year in each of our students’ lives. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s principal.

Sincerely,

George J. Rafferty, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools