

Glassboro Public Schools

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Mark J. Silverstein, MBA, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools

March 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As national and local reporting on Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues, it is natural for us to begin to question the “what ifs” involving our family members and our daily routines. I want to keep you abreast of our planning as we move forward.

In response to COVID-19 concerns, we continue to work with the local, state and national health organizations and follow their recommendations. Please be aware that we are adhering to our normal school operating procedures, daily schedules, scheduled events, and any planned social gatherings until notified to do otherwise.

However, we continue to follow and reinforce heightened disinfecting procedures in all our facilities, classrooms and buses. In addition, our school nursing staff continues to closely monitor attendance and student and staff health.

Remember, the NJDOH continues to advise us that the best ways to prevent the spread of respiratory infections or viruses are to:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Recently, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has informed us that in the event health officials require New Jersey schools to close, home instruction services will be available to our students. Home instruction services are permitted to be provided “online” or by “any other means developed by the school district to meet the needs of its students.”

As a result, all parents of Pre-K-6 students will receive a home instruction packet in their child’s bookbag on **Friday, March 13, 2020**. In grades 6-12, all students have 1:1 laptops. We will activate a link on our district website specific to procedures and guidelines for at-home, online learning for parents and students.

We are communicating some important ideas to our families so that you can also prepare in advance for any possible school closures if they should occur.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Here are some points to consider as you plan:

If schools need to close for one day or several days, **alternate childcare** may need to be found, depending on the age of your child. Consider your options and talk about your backup plan with those who may be able to help, such as grandparents and neighbors.

If students are to work from home, they will need a **comfortable workspace** in the home where they can readily find the tools they need, including online access. This space should be visible to parents as students may need supervision.

Familiarize yourself with your **teacher's website** regularly to view updates.

Finally, we all should be aware that the widespread conversations and news coverage about the coronavirus may be disconcerting to some children. I have provided you with some guidance from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and School Nurses (NASN) about Talking to Children about COVID-19: A Parent Resource. Please see attached links below for your reference.

As always, we appreciate and value your partnership in working together for the best interest of all our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Silverstein', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Mark Silverstein
Superintendent

[Talking to Children about COVID-19: A Parent Resource](#)

For information on the Coronavirus, please visit the following websites:

NJ Department of Health:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

Center for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>