

# GARFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent of Schools

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March 10, 2020

**Re: EARLY DISMISSAL ON THURSDAY, MARCH 12 AND FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020.**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we continue to see a rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Jersey and throughout the country, it is important that the Garfield District is prepared for school closure if it becomes necessary. The NJ Department of Education has directed districts to plan and prepare for home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students in the event of a sudden and extensive closing ordered by the NJ Department of Health and the Garfield Health Department. These lesson plans must be submitted to the Bergen County Superintendent for review in the near future. To that end, our teachers require additional time to complete these lessons and assignments in a timely manner.

**The Garfield School District has scheduled one-session days on Thursday, March 12, 2020 and on Friday, March 13, 2020. Please mark your calendar and make any necessary arrangements. I want to emphasize that the early dismissal is being called for teacher preparation and not related to any cases of COVID-19 in our schools.**

It is important that you check with the childcare providers to confirm that services will be offered on the afternoons of March 12th and March 13th. Athletic practices scheduled after school are not cancelled and students should return to school to participate at 3:00 p.m.

Since the COVID-19 presents a constantly evolving situation, I remind you to check the district website daily for any new information. Please refer to the previous communications posted on the district website for more information about the COVID-19 and the actions taken thus far by the school district.

Let's all remember to practice good hygiene by washing hands often for at least 20 seconds, restrict travel, and remain at home when feeling sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work through the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Regards,

*Anna Sciacca*

Superintendent of Schools