



April 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Members of the Garfield School Community,

Please find a summary including updated information. As more information is available to me, I will most certainly pass it along to you.

- New Jersey schools remain closed for an indefinite period. Governor Murphy is expected to address the issue on April 17th so we will have new information at that time. If an announcement is made prior to that date, I will inform you immediately.
- Spring break begins on April 10 and ends on April 17th. Remote learning will resume on Monday, April 20th. We have posted some recreational activities on the website if you so choose, however, all students and families are encouraged to relax and recharge over this time.
- The District will continue to provide meals to eligible students over spring break from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the Three Saints Parking lot.
- Teachers will begin to provide video lessons at least twice weekly immediately after spring break in order to move instruction forward and present new material as aligned to the state standards.
- The district has made computers available to all students in grades K-12. Beginning the week of April 20th, all lessons will be presented electronically, and paper packets will no longer be available for our students in grades K-3 unless there are extraordinary circumstances.
- If you do not have any computer device in your home and /or internet access, it is important that you inform the building principal so we can make provisions to assist you. This is essential for your child to participate and succeed in remote learning lessons.
- Many parents are asking about class trips and events. All trips, events, and sports remain cancelled.
- Alternate graduation plans are being made if school remains closed. We understand the significance of the event for our students and families, and our staff has begun planning creative ways to celebrate the occasion.
- As far as grading, we are currently collaborating to determine the most fair and efficient ways to grade our students for the work that is being done remotely. A grading policy will be announced after we return from spring break. Grading can look differently and each level: elementary, middle, and high school. The pass/fail option is not a strong consideration at the high school level at this time.
- All state testing for the 2019-2020 school year has been cancelled.
- High School students that have not completed the Portfolio Assessment Process will have that graduation requirement waived. If the student has met credit, curriculum and

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attendance requirements, the student will be eligible for graduation. Parents and students are encouraged to reach out to counselors for information and specific guidance.

As we move into Spring break, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our administrators, teachers, nurses, counselors, social workers and technology department who have embraced the challenges of remote learning in a most meaningful and direct way. Their outreach to students and families has been nothing short of remarkable as they continue to seek new ways to execute remote lessons, create instructional videos, and engage our students. The many videos of staff on the school websites are enjoyable and positive to watch as we strive to stay connected to our students and families.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to you for being our partners in education as we all continue to deal with the stress that this pandemic has wreaked on our lives. The district is here to support your efforts and I encourage you to reach out and communicate any issues or concerns. We will do everything possible to address those concerns and ease your burden. Please continue to check the website daily, remain in close contact with the teachers, and reach out for assistance and support as needed.

I wish all of you a very Happy Easter or Passover if it is celebrated in your home.

Be safe, remain healthy and positive as we work through these days of shelter in place and remote learning.

Kind Regards,

Anna Sciacca

Superintendent of Schools

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