



March 25, 2020

Dear Parents,

Let me start by thanking the many parents who have reached out to administrators and teachers to provide such positive feedback about our transition to virtual learning. It is these positive notes that give our staff the vote of confidence to keep moving forward in such an uncertain time in education. As you have thanked so many of us, I want to thank you all for sharing the reigns of teaching and supporting your children, our students. I can only imagine how difficult it is for both our teachers and parents to balance jobs, child-care, and education.

It is with this in mind that I want to give you as much notice as possible regarding the next steps to our school closure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With so many mixed messages out there from state and federal decision-making, it is my responsibility to sift through this information and reflect on conversations with our Monmouth County Executive Superintendent and our Monmouth County Health Commissioner to make the most responsible decision for the health and safety of our students and staff. Upon my recommendation, the Rumson Board of Education has decided to continue virtual instruction and keep our buildings closed **until at least Monday, April 20**, and even this date is speculative in terms of “for sure” return date.

- Thursday, March 26, 2020 - Thursday, April 9, 2020: Virtual Instruction will continue (**please see details below**)
- Friday, April 10, 2020 - Sunday, April 19, 2020: Spring Break
- Monday, April 20, 2020: **TENTATIVE** School Reopening. Again, all of us must be prepared for this opening to be delayed. Further information will be provided prior to April 20th.

While virtual schooling can never match the high quality of teaching and learning that occurs in our classrooms, we must aim to reach that potential each day. In that spirit, the following adjustments are set to begin **Monday, March 30**:

- Grade PreK/Transitional Kindergarten:
 - Instruction will continue as it has the past eight days of virtual learning with a schedule sent to students and parents each morning by 8:30 AM
- Grades K-3:
 - School hours will follow an early dismissal schedule (8:30 AM - 1:00 PM) beginning Monday, March 30. During this time instruction will continue as it has the past eight days of virtual learning with a schedule sent to students and parents each morning by 8:30 AM
 - From 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM students and staff will break
 - From 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM students will work on assignments with digital access to teachers and staff for follow up help. Also, during this time, additional services for identified students will be provided.
- Grades 4-8:
 - School hours will follow an early dismissal schedule (8:30 AM - 1:00 PM) beginning Monday, March 30. During this time students will follow their nine-period schedule according to our 6-day rotation, beginning with Day 1. Students will begin with homeroom from 8:30 AM - 8:40 AM and following their regular nine-period schedule. Information will be provided to students and parents prior to 8:30 AM each

morning.

Example: Students will report to their scheduled period 1 class on Day 1 through Google Classroom and receive instruction from their teacher with those students who are typically in that class when they are in school. They will then move to their period 2 class through Google Classroom, etc.

- From 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM students and staff will break
- From 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM students will work on assignments with digital access to teachers and staff for follow-up help. Also, during this time, additional services for identified students will be provided.

It is our intent that this schedule adds routine and structure to our students' day in preparation for their return to school. In addition, **it will allow teachers to work with smaller groups of students, move forward with new skills and content in the curriculum, and differentiate instruction where appropriate.**

In preparation for this transition to a new schedule, teachers will be hosting virtual instruction on **Friday, March 27 from 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM only**. Staff will use the remainder of this day to work together virtually to plan and organize instruction through spring break (and possibly beyond). This day will count towards the 180-day school calendar.

On a related note, Governor Murphy announced yesterday that all state tests (NJSLA, ACCESS, DLM) are canceled for the 2019-2020 school year. We will follow up in future correspondence on any impact this may have on placement and other areas dependent on testing data.

I know this is a lot of information! Below is a “List of Important Dates” for you to use to navigate this transition into “phase two” of our virtual learning plan. I wish this was not necessary and look forward to the days when we can fill our hallways and classrooms with the voices and giggles of your children. That day will come soon enough. In the meantime, we thank you for your support and wish you and yours good health.

List of Important Dates:

- Thursday, March 26, 2020: Virtual Instruction continues as it has been done the past eight school days
- Friday, March 27, 2020 - Virtual Instruction 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM only
- Monday, March 30, 2020 - Thursday, April 9, 2020: Revised Virtual Learning Schedule begins on early dismissal schedule beginning with Day 1 in the six-day cycle
- Friday, April 10, 2020 - Sunday, April 19, 2020: Spring Break
- Monday, April 20, 2020: **TENTATIVE** School Reopening (with the acknowledgment that this date too may be delayed). Further information will be provided prior to April 20th.

Sincerely,

Dr. John E. Bormann
Superintendent of Rumson Schools