



March 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

After consideration of information shared at meetings with members of the NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) and NJ Department of Education (NJDOE), the Rumson School District will be closed for students effective Monday, March 16, 2020 until further notice. While it is our intent to re-open as soon as possible, timing will depend on various circumstances. We will keep you updated.

- Monday, March 16, 2020 will be a “snow day,” with no virtual learning occurring. This day will be made up on June 19, 2020 per the 2020-2021 district calendar. This day is being utilized to give everyone -- staff and parents -- some time to plan and organize.
- Tuesday, March 17, 2020 will be our first day of Virtual / At-Home Learning. This day and forward will be counted as part of our 180 school day calendar.
- All before- or after-school activities are cancelled during the closure of school.

This closure is preemptive as there are no cases of COVID-19 reported in the Rumson School District and our risk level, as assessed through NJDOH risk guidance, is categorized as low. It is being carried out as a means to reduce the interaction of individuals and thereby reduce any possible transmission of this communicable disease in the greater community as recommended by the CDC.

As a proactive measure and in support of the purpose for our school closure, it is extremely important that during this time parents carefully consider play dates and other social gatherings. Seek your physician's guidance if you have questions, concerns, or if you or your children show any symptoms of sickness.

The School Closure Virtual & At-Home Learning Plan has been developed by our faculty, with the support of administration and our technology department. While we cannot replicate the great teaching done in our classrooms, I am confident in our teachers and the experiences they have designed. The teaching/learning will occur as follows:

1. Each morning, just before 8:45AM your child's teacher/teachers will share the learning plan for the day via your child's Rumson Google Calendar and/or Google Classroom. Teachers will also communicate this to parents.
2. The plan will include all the work for the day, in all subjects for that day (ELA and Math will occur daily and all other subjects will occur weekly).
3. The plan will provide a time for your child to access your teacher in real-time through Google Hangouts, as well as additional ways to contact teachers. Directions will be provided when the daily plan is sent out and students have practiced this approach in school.
4. Additional information will be provided to students/parents from Mr. Snyder, Supervisor of Special Services, to include any additional services he/she/they receive as part of their educational plan.
5. Ensure your child completes the assignments on the daily plan. Assignment completion will be used for attendance purposes.

6. Please refer to this [Home Learning Guidance for Parents](#) for some tips on at-home and virtual learning. Also, please visit our Virtual Learning Plan on the [district website](#) for additional virtual learning information.

During this time other members of our staff - our guidance counselors, nurses, and case managers - will be checking in on the needs of students. In addition, our custodial staff will be doing a deep clean of our schools and the schools will be open for administrative tasks. At all times we will be providing parents with updates on our educational services, school closure status, and the state of the Coronavirus pandemic.

This can be a very stressful time for you as a parent and can lead to anxieties for our students. If at any time you or your children need anything, please reach out to any of our administrators via email so we can provide the support you need. You may also call the schools between 8:30am-2:30pm daily beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Ms. Shari Feeney, Deane-Porter Principal sfeeney@rumsonschool.org

Mrs. Jennifer Gibbons, Forrestdale Principal jgibbons@rumsonschool.org

Mrs. Vera Ridoux, Supv of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment vridoux@rumsonschool.org

Mr. Michael Snyder, Supervisor of Special Education msnyder@rumsonschool.org

Sincerely,

Dr. John E. Bormann

Superintendent of Rumson Schools

jbormann@rumsonschool.org