

March 27, 2020

Clearview Regional Parents and Guardians:

I want to personally thank you for your support of our district. I have a deep respect for what our school community members have been able to accomplish in a short period of time. You have been a major contributor to the relatively smooth transition to a completely unfamiliar educational environment. You've all been asked to absorb an additional role while maintaining your 'normal' day to day parental and professional responsibilities and you've willingly met the challenge.

As you know, our initial plan was to implement 'Remote Learning' for a two-week period. Yesterday, the Governor announced that schools will remain closed through at least Friday, April 17. Earlier today we received a similar message from the Commissioner of Education, who asked districts to "...refrain from speculating or announcing school reopening dates unless directed to do so by the Governor."

I cannot begin to imagine the various and unique challenges that our school community families are experiencing; however, I can empathize with what you are facing, and incorporate that reality into our educational plan moving forward. Remote learning is admittedly challenging, even under ideal circumstances. The current national crisis certainly is anything but ideal; therefore, we have to change the way we approach education. Some students and families have struggled with the first few weeks, while others have easily worked through the temporary transition to remote learning. Please know that we are constantly making modifications to our plan and will continue to do so in an effort to ensure each student is able to fully participate and derive an educational benefit from remote learning. The changes that the Director of Curriculum/Instruction will communicate next week should help minimize the issues that you expressed during the first two weeks.

We are all experiencing this together! Our staff fully understands the unique situation that our students are in and they'll continue to be flexible in their approach to accommodate the needs of each student. While education remains a priority, the importance of providing some stability, structure, and normalcy to our students cannot be overstated. Each student interaction with their school increases that structure and brings some level of normalcy to our students, which can enhance their overall mental health. Below I've included some links to resources to provide some general information on social-emotional supports.

During the first week of remote instruction the overall focus was to establish the parameters for each class, ensure equitable access, and to review/reinforce previously taught material. Over the past few days we've partially moved into the introduction of new material and a few classes have initiated minor assessments. As we move into the next phase of our plan, all of our classes will include the introduction of new material and the potential for major and minor assessments. Another major change includes the use of some form of live interactions through one or several technology platforms (Google Meet, YouTube, Zoom, Screencasts, etc.). We are working through the legalities, protocols, and expectations for using live interactions (videos). We are developing a 'Remote Learning Video Protocols' form and will be securing parental permission/approval in the near future.

To say there are many questions about the balance of the school year would be an understatement. However, I will provide some information below (with several links) in an effort to answer as many questions as possible in addition to providing some resources.

Social-Emotional Supports / Information

Our School Counselors and Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) remain available during this period of Remote Learning. Our Counselors contact information can be found at https://hs.clearviewregional.edu/departments/guidance_counseling and our Student Assistance Counselor information contact can be found at <https://clearviewregional.edu/cms/one.aspx?portalid=57389&pageid=49767499>. The following resources may be valuable in your efforts to monitor your child during this remote learning period. We are not endorsing the professionals or companies represented in these links. The resources are simply an effort to provide information that may enhance your knowledge and ability to support your child.

[Supporting Stress - Mental Health - Excessive Worry 3-2020](#)

[5 Ways to Help Teens Manage Anxiety About the Coronavirus - The New York Times](#)

Student Events for the Remainder of the Year

While we are not speculating about a reopen date, we are maintaining a 'glass half full' mindset. We are planning to hold as many student events as possible upon returning to school. We realize the importance of each school year, especially Senior year, and we will do whatever we can to modify the schedule to maximize the students' experience for the remainder of the year. Each event listed below will ultimately be impacted by the Governor's decision to reopen schools in the coming weeks, but this is the status as of today:

Senior Trip: This is one of the more difficult issues to address considering the dates of the Senior Trip (April 21-25). The Director of Student Activities and the High School Principal are working with the travel agent and will be contacting the Senior Trip participants in a separate communication.

Prom: We remain hopeful that the May 28th date will provide enough time for things to stabilize and enable us to proceed as planned.

Graduation: This culminating student event is currently scheduled for June 16th. We realize the importance of this event to the student's entire family and to the school community as a whole. We will do everything possible to ensure our Seniors have an opportunity to participate in their graduation.

Spring Musical: The musical was postponed last week. We plan for our students to perform in the musical in late Spring.

Athletics: Both of the athletics conferences that our student-athletes compete in (Tri-County and Olympic) have cancelled all events through April 20th. They hope to have some type of modified season for Spring sports.

Advanced Placement Courses (College Board)

This is one of the most critical areas for any student who is in an AP class. The ability to secure college credit is of utmost importance, especially to the members of the Senior class. The link below provides full details for any student who is impacted by school closures -

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>. Our students should consult with their counselors with any questions regarding AP classes.

Grades and Quarter/Semester Format

We are exploring several modifications to our grading policies and the quarter/semester format. Additional information will be forthcoming within the next week. We are focused on remaining student-centered during this period of remote learning.

State Assessments

On Tuesday, Governor Murphy announced that the State of New Jersey is cancelling all statewide student assessments for the Spring of 2020. This includes the springtime administration of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), ACCESS for ELLs, and the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment. The Department of Education included the following statement: *"We recognize educators, students, and families will have questions. We are working to mitigate any unintended consequences, and we will work through multiple channels to keep stakeholders fully informed of updated guidance and other changes."*

Nutritional Information

We continue to serve breakfast and lunch to the students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals. Please review the information in the link below.

[School Breakfast - Lunch Eligibility Information 3-27-20](#)

Clearview Campus Access

We've had several requests to access the tennis courts in addition to walking around the campus including the track. We initially 'locked down' the access to all of the district's facilities in an effort to be consistent with the municipalities and the county. The tennis courts and basketball courts are off limits at municipalities and county parks. Our tennis courts will remain locked in an effort to preclude groups from congregating. However, recognizing that we're all feeling the need to get some fresh air and exercise, effective Monday (30th), residents may access our facilities for 'passive recreation' (walking/running) as long as the appropriate level of social distancing remains consistent with current guidelines.

District's Website

We are consolidating the information relating to remote learning. The following link currently has six separate pieces of information with additional information being posted within the next few days. Please visit this page for assistance with Google Classroom and for answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

https://www.clearviewregional.edu/district/remote_learning_and_c o v i d_19_information

School Calendar

We plan on maintaining the school calendar as originally adopted. The 'Spring Break' that is scheduled for April 9, 10, 13 will occur as planned. (We'll all need a break by then!)

Miscellaneous Information

Several county and state agencies have requested that districts help distribute the following information to their school communities. Please forward this to anyone who may find it valuable.

Childcare Availability

Parents and guardians in need of child care can contact the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency in their county. CCR&Rs will have the most up to date information on available care options. www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus

Food Pantries in Gloucester County

[Gloucester County Food Pantries](#)

Employment – Local Companies that are Hiring

<https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/>

Internet Information

Comcast: 1-(800) 266-2278 or 1-(866)-203- 0432

Spectrum: Providing free internet access by dialing 1-(844)- 488-8398

I realize this correspondence is lengthy, but I wanted to provide as much detail as possible in order to ease some of the uncertainty that exists. Based upon the communications that I've received over the past two weeks, it appears that we are collectively doing 'ok' in regards to the remote learning. We've set up another email address (RemoteLearningQuestions@clearviewregional.edu) to expedite help with anything related to our remote learning plan. Again, thank you for the support, professionalism, and understanding during this unique period in our country's history.

Sincerely,

John Horchak III
Superintendent
Clearview Regional High School District