



MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

22 VALLEY ROAD ~ MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042

WWW.MONTCLAIR.K12.NJ.US

NATHAN N. PARKER, ED. D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools

March 15, 2020

COVID-19 Notification No. 7

At the top, left hand side of our district [website](#) there is an option to change the language. Simply click on the word "Language" and a dropdown menu will appear so that you can change the website to the language of your choice.

En la parte superior, a la izquierda del sitio web de nuestro distrito, hay una opción para cambiar el idioma. Simplemente haga clic en la palabra "Idioma" y aparecerá un menú desplegable para que pueda cambiar el sitio web al idioma que elija.



Good evening everyone,

Marco Polo

First, it is hard to imagine what everyone is going through these days! My wife and I are trying to maintain some normality. We have three kids who have families, not close by, so we are keeping track of each other using a video social messaging system called Marco Polo - which is free. I recommend Marco Polo as it enables one to keep in visual contact on a regular basis with loved ones or groups of friends.

Continuation of Teaching and Learning

Last week was a whirlwind for families and staff trying to adjust to social distancing and creating a continuation of teaching and learning. The faculty and support staff have done so much creative work on a very short timeline. Our technology department has surveyed all families and will be distributing hot-spots and Chromebooks to those who do not have access. Distribution will be tomorrow at the Hillside Elementary School from 9 am to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm (side entrance with the red door). The tech team has been amazing as they have had to collect, clean, and disinfect each of the items and worked throughout the weekend.

Lunch and Breakfast Pickup

Our food service, Pomptonian, worked with us throughout last week to prepare grab and go lunches and the next morning's breakfast. As a reminder, pick up will be at three locations, Nishuane, Hillside, and Montclair High School between the hours of 11:30 am and 1 pm. In addition, one day a week, a week's worth of fresh groceries will be provided and distributed by Toni's Kitchen, under the direction of Mrs. Anne Mernin. More information to follow.

Remote Teaching and Learning

Our goal is to continue the operation of the district as seamlessly as possible. I would like faculty and students to feel connected to one another. Clearly we will be learning how best to deliver instruction remotely as we go along. The most important aspect of remote learning is that it is interesting and engaging. This will help mitigate the very uncomfortable feeling of social isolation of both students and faculty.

Over the past few days, our talented faculty has developed and will continue to develop ways of remote teaching and learning that are innovative and rigorous. Please understand our faculty have families and in many cases children who are also doing remote learning. They will be balancing professional and personal obligations as is each family.

You should have received specific instructions from your principals and teachers to get started, and we are hopeful that you remain safe and healthy throughout this unique learning experience.

School Nurse Services

Feel free to email your child's school nurse with any general questions you may have. If you or your child is ill, contact your healthcare provider for instructions.

Tips to decrease spread of infections:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Rinse and dry.

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash immediately and wash and dry hands.
- Keep your hands off face and out of mouth, nose and eyes.
- Clean and disinfect your tables, counter tops, desks, light switches, remote controls, cell phones and door knobs.
- Practice social distancing.
- Discourage your family and friends from socializing in groups.

Advice on talking with children about Coronavirus:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/smart-parenting-smarter-kids/202003/how-talk-kids-and-teens-about-the-coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

Communication

While the school buildings are closed, email will be the most efficient way to contact any of our staff or Central Office administrators. Do not hesitate to contact us, and we will provide assistance as quickly as possible. These are unprecedented times and everyone is working to manage this uncharted territory, and we understand that you too are managing your household logistics.

Township of Montclair Directive

The Township of Montclair, effective today, has closed all parks, recreation areas and facilities for the public. ***This includes all school district playgrounds and fields.*** For details from the Township, please visit www.montclairnjusa.org.

We hope to get off to a good start tomorrow. I know the principals have been extremely proactive in creating a positive atmosphere for learning. I want to thank all members of the school community for pitching in and helping out.

Please take care of yourselves and your families.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nathan Parker
Interim Superintendent