



Montclair Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

April 2, 2020

COVID-19 Notification No. 13

- **MPS Food Service (Pomptonian) and Toni's Kitchen**

Beginning Monday, April 6, families who qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch will have a single pickup point for free breakfast/lunch meals and for groceries from Toni's Kitchen.

Pomptonian will have breakfast/lunch meals available Monday and Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm and Toni's Kitchen will have groceries available Monday through Friday during those hours.

The Montclair Public Schools and Toni's Kitchen have formed this partnership to ensure that all our families have access to healthy food during this period of disruption.

Pickups will be curbside at Toni's Kitchen, 73 So. Fullerton Ave. Cars can turn onto Union St. from So. Fullerton and the south side of the street will be reserved for curbside pickup.

Toni's Kitchen hours of service are from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday or 3 to 6 pm on Sunday. Lunches will only be served during the times listed above.

Thanks to a generous, benevolent community member's donation, breakfast/lunch will be served during spring break. Groceries will be available throughout the spring break period as well courtesy of Toni's Kitchen.

If there are families who are not registered for Free and Reduced Lunch, and who now need access to food, please reach out directly to Toni's Kitchen via email at toniskitchen@gmail.org. If you believe you may now qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, you can apply at this [link](#).

- **Montclair School Nurses**

The Montclair School Nurses' Virtual Health Offices are open. Please feel free to reach out to your school nurses for any general questions or concerns. Remember to call your primary healthcare provider or 911 for specific medical guidance or medical emergencies. In addition, a number of our nurses are volunteering to provide emergency medical service in various agencies in Essex County.

- **New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)**

The NJDOH released instructions for what to do if you test [negative](#) or [positive](#) for the Coronavirus.

- **Community Efforts**

Many district employees are working in supportive roles such as preparing and distributing hot spots and Chromebooks for families in need; collecting extruders, which are parts on our 3D printers, that we are loaning to MSU for making masks and parts for respirators; opening schools to collect gloves, masks, and thermometers; and distributing food.

Specifically, as of today, we delivered 22 cases of gloves, a few hundred masks and dozens of gowns to the Montclair Health Department for distribution to local nursing homes and hospitals.

A special thank you to Major Jennings, Eileen Gilbert, Nelson Arias and Tom Santagato for retrieving these personal protective equipment items from science, art, auto mechanics, wood-shop, trainers' rooms and Special Ed classrooms. And a thank you to John Eschmann for coordinating building entry, all of our nurses, and Betty Strauss for leading this monumental effort.

- **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Please remember that your children's teachers may be emailed to arrange a virtual conference.

- **Grading**

All grades for 6-12 are being entered in Genesis.

- **Budget**

We will be presenting a budget for approval by the Board of School Estimate on April 6, at 7 pm. The public is invited to attend virtually and a notice will be posted on the district website with instructions for joining. I greatly appreciate all the work of the staff and community groups who have offered suggestions to us throughout the process. Our goal was to stay within the mandated tax cap and maintain current offerings. We continue the Restorative Justice Initiative and will expand training and implementation to three additional schools: Bullock, Bradford, and Buzz Aldrin. With the help of the Board of School Estimate, we will be doing smaller projects such as chair lifts and stair repairs. Last night the Board of Education approved the design phase of exterior repairs to much of the brick work at schools across the district. Prior to reopening, we will also deep clean and sanitize all facilities.

- **Instructional, Mental Health and Social Emotional Supports**

We will be releasing an array of resources that include webinars on remote teaching, mental health and social emotional topics. This will be an expansion of our [Coronavirus Resource page](#) which we have renamed to include our new wellness and support materials. Please check back at the end of next week for topics that may be of interest while we are navigating these uncertain times.

- **Sharing your students virtual experience**

We would love to highlight children learning in their new, virtual classrooms. Please feel free to send pictures or short video of your children engaging in their school work at home that we may feature on our website. If you'd like you may include captions, the name of the school, or any other details but this is not necessary. Send your pictures to Ms. Jennifer Fusco at jfusco@montclair.k12.nj.us. Thank you for helping us capture this unique experience.

Stay well, stay safe and stay connected. We are all in this together, and we will all get through this together!

Thank you, Dr. Nathan Parker