



MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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NATHAN N. PARKER, ED. D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools

April 17, 2020

Dear Families, Caregivers, and Colleagues,

Yesterday we learned that Governor Murphy has extended the statewide directive to close schools until at least May 15, 2020. As we continue this journey of remote learning, our leadership team at the district and building level created and distributed a very detailed Framework for Remote and Virtual Teaching and Learning to all educators in the district. This was in response to faculty and parents looking for greater consistency in expectations around attendance, assignments, and visual connections with students.

I hope our spring break gave you a chance to step away from the computer screen. Being home for extended periods of time has afforded people to experience this social distancing in their own way. My son and his family have used this time to welcome a new dog to their household as well as Tater and Tot – a pair of gerbils. My daughter runs a small company called Positive Parenting Boston and was on the local [Boston TV station](#) speaking about a couple of simple strategies to use with young children to create a positive home culture. I mentioned in one of my first notifications a social networking application called Marco Polo. This video messaging software application helps maintain social connections and physical distancing. We are able to hear and see our children and grandchildren on a regular basis.

The very best is coming to the forefront from students and adults. This [video](#) produced by the Montclair High School Girls Soccer team pays tribute to our health services workers. Politically active Montclair High School students are interviewing local political candidates and posting the interviews on YouTube. Buzz Aldrin Middle School students are creating posters praising the work of hospital workers at Mountainside Hospital along with participating in other “Positivity Opportunities.” Various staff members have collected medically-related items from the schools – gloves, masks, goggles, and thermometers – and transferred them to the Montclair Health Department for distribution to health centers. And, the extruders from our 3D printers are now at Montclair State University helping to manufacture protective and respiratory equipment. A Montclair couple sponsored lunch/breakfast for qualified students throughout spring break. These meals have been distributed at Toni’s Kitchen on Monday and Thursday along with fresh groceries and other consumable items and will continue throughout remote learning.

On a sad note, we continue to mourn the loss of one of our recent graduates, Ryan Kolenovic and lifelong member of our community and Glenfield Middle School colleague, Ms. Karen Wingfield. On Monday, a grief counseling session was held in memory of Ryan for faculty and students. On Wednesday, grief counseling sessions were held in memory of Ms. Wingfield for faculty, students, and parents. The counseling sessions were hosted by Lisa Athan of *Grief Speaks*. Today we heard of the passing of retired art teacher, Eleanor Dearborn. Ms. Dearborn served the Montclair Public Schools for 35 years, she helped create the first CI art curriculum at Hillside and the science magnet at Watchung as well as assisting with many SVPA productions at Montclair High School where her husband, Patrick Dearborn, was the Director. Her daughter, Ann Cavallo, who took over for her mother when she retired, is the current art teacher at Watchung. Please refer to our website's [Counseling Corner](#) or contact your respective schools for additional support.

I wish you well next week as teaching and learning starts up again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan N. Parker".

Dr. Nathan N. Parker