



## Montclair Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent*

**April 8, 2020**

Dear Families/Caregivers and Staff,

Tonight many of you will, for the first time, attend a virtual Passover Seder. Tomorrow is Holy Thursday, followed by Good Friday and Easter. We could not have a more Holy Week in the Jewish and Christian religions and beginning April 23 our Muslim community will celebrate Ramadan. I wish each of you health and peace, especially at this reflective time when community is so important. By now, many of you probably know someone personally or know of someone whose life has been tragically lost to the virus. My well wishes and thoughts are with all of you at this time.

It is particularly horrifying that this virus has disproportionately impacted African Americans. The statistics highlight once again the medical and educational inequality across the United States. In Chicago where the African American population is 30%, 70% of African Americans are losing lives from this virus.

My highest priority while in Montclair remains on keeping a focus on equity, raising student academic achievement and eliminating the opportunity gap. Dealing with remote learning, these priorities are no different, and we continue to ensure that all of our students are served equitably.

Now into our fourth week of remote learning we continue to evolve and reexamine our practices. Below is information about the schedule and graduation requirements.

### **Schedule**

You may have heard that as of Tuesday, April 7, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy, has ordered the closure of all New Jersey schools indefinitely. Therefore, our initial anticipation of returning on April 20 will cease, and we will continue to **operate virtually until further notice**. Rest assured that we have the best interests of the health and safety of our community, families and staff in mind, and we will keep you posted as to any changes as quickly as possible. Please see our schedule below:

**April 10 – Schools and District closed in observance of Good Friday**

**April 13–17 – Schools closed for spring break**

## **Graduation Requirements**

- All statutorily-mandated State-wide assessments for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have been canceled for the 2019-2020 school year.
- The graduation assessment requirement for current 12<sup>th</sup> grade students has been waived for the 2019-2020 school year.
  - Students who have met all other graduation requirements, shall be permitted to graduate **without** submitting a portfolio appeal.
  - Students will **not** be required to pass the PARCC examination in order to graduate for the 2019-2020 school year.

Please visit our district [COVID-19 webpage](#) for additional resources.

As we head into spring break, we hope that staff, families, and students will find a way to mentally and emotionally recharge, and we look forward to seeing you again virtually on Monday, April 20.

Thank you for your support and your messages letting us know how your children are doing.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Nathan N. Parker  
Interim Superintendent