



STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"

March 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Yesterday afternoon, the state of New Jersey announced that the closure of all schools in order to mitigate exposure during the COVID-19 situation was inevitable. The purpose of this closure is with the intent to promote social distancing. In his address, Governor Murphy said the state was not yet ready to require that all district schools be closed because there are districts and towns where remote learning plans and related supports are still in development. Because of the hard work of our dedicated staff, the Stafford Township School District is ready to begin the inevitable closure of our schools now. After conferring with the Ocean County Department of Health and the Ocean County Superintendent of Schools office, **we are announcing that all Stafford Township school buildings will be CLOSED to all students beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 for a two week time period with a return date of Monday, March 30, 2020. If this changes, I will send out correspondence accordingly. We will begin with our remote learning plans on Monday, March 16, 2020.**

All students have received a packet of learning materials on Friday, March 13, 2020, to complete at home. Hard copies of assignments and 1:1 devices are available to be picked up between 10:00am-6:00pm on Monday March 16, 2020, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Monday, March 23, 2020, at the McKinley Avenue Elementary School cafeteria side entrance. This will serve as a central pick-up location for all grade levels. For our free and reduced students, breakfast and lunches will also be provided during these times. All food packages contain five days worth of food. If school is closed later than anticipated, pick up will continue on Monday, March 30, 2020, and Monday, April 6, 2020.

Thereafter, please reach out to the building principal via e-mail if you are unable to pick-up the materials at this time. Teachers will also facilitate remote learning during this closure. **Parents and students should visit the student's teacher's website daily to access learning resources.** Teacher websites can be found within our school district's website at www.staffordschools.org. Teachers will post assignments and be available via e-mail, Google Classroom, or other educational platforms to answer questions and support students with their work. Teachers will include their preferred method of communication on their website. Students will be expected to work each day and complete their assignments.

Transitioning to remote learning will be an adjustment for all. As we've indicated previously, aside from wanting to keep our students and staff healthy, our goal is to ensure that students are engaged and learning, while we remain attentive to their emotional needs during this unsettling and unprecedented time.

As always, we will continue to provide updates and share information regarding additional actions and announcements. Please know that I am in constant communication with the New Jersey Department of Education, the Ocean County Health Department, township officials, and other Ocean County Superintendents. We are all working together to try to make this transition as smooth as possible. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work through the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Very truly yours,

George J. Chidiac
Superintendent of Schools