



STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As we continue to see a rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Jersey and throughout the country, it is important that the Stafford Township School District is prepared for school closure if it becomes necessary. In the unlikely event that schools are closed, the NJ Department of Education has informed all New Jersey school districts that all schools will be allowed to utilize alternate means of educating students to satisfy the 180-school-day requirement. The NJ Department of Education has directed districts to plan and prepare for home instruction in the event of a sudden and extensive closing ordered by the NJ Department of Health.

As a result, the Stafford Township School District has scheduled half days for students on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Please refer to your school's website for early dismissal times. Extended Day services will be available. Enrichment and after-school activities that were previously scheduled after school are cancelled. We will resume our normal schedule on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

This change in the schedule is not due to any health-related issues in or around our schools, but instead, because we want to allow our staff time to prepare for home-based instruction to include virtual learning via Google Classroom and various online tools. I want to emphasize that the early dismissal is being called for teacher preparation and is not related to any cases of COVID-19 in our schools.

Let's all remember to practice good hygiene by washing hands often for at least 20 seconds, restrict travel, and remain at home when feeling sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we work through the challenges presented by COVID-19. As always, I will keep you updated as we work through this time of uncertainty together.

Very truly yours,

George J. Chidiac
Superintendent of Schools